EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS: Freemen's Final Days

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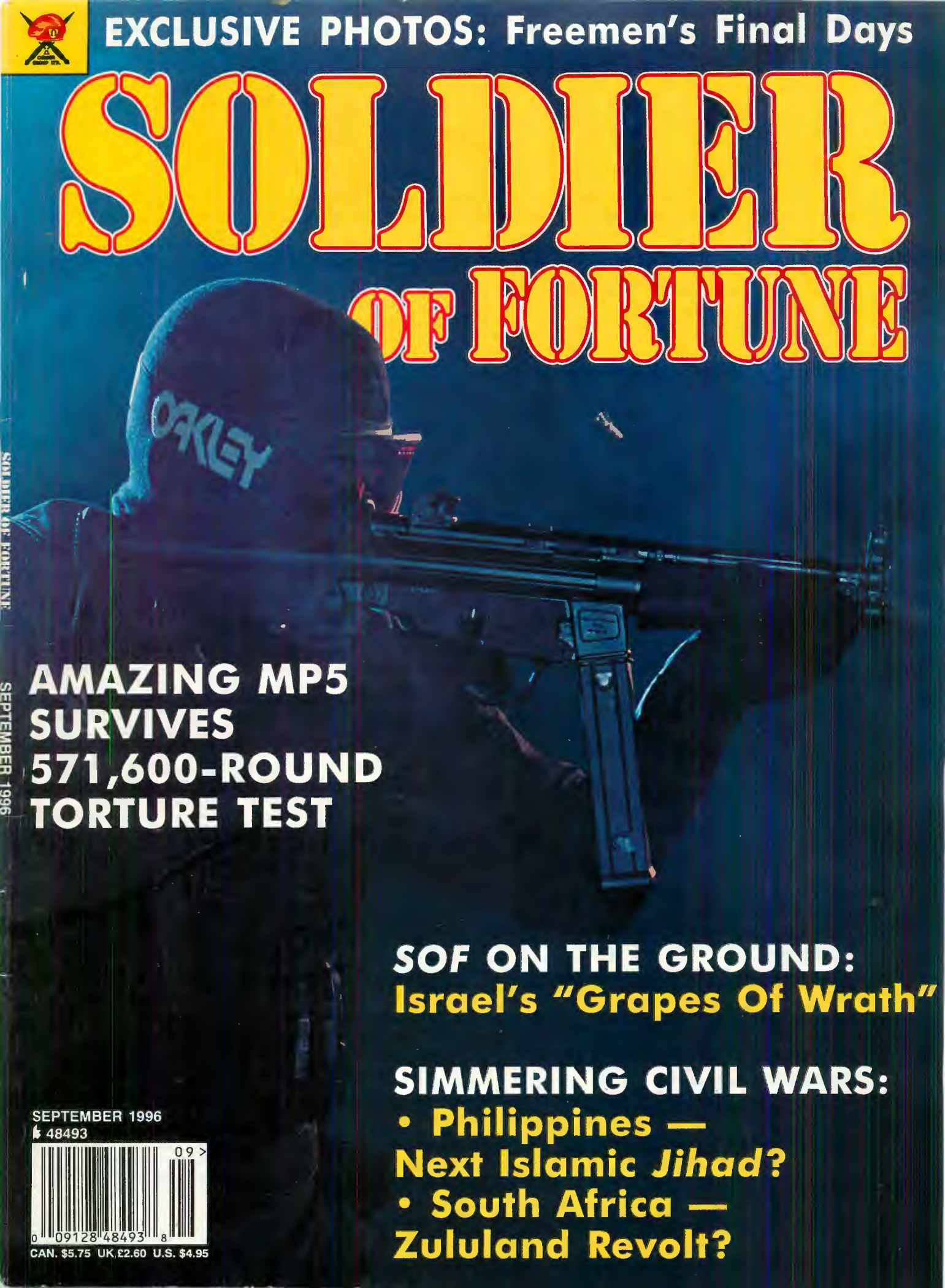

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- Philippines — Next Islamic *Jihad*?
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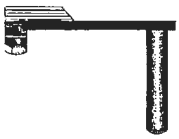

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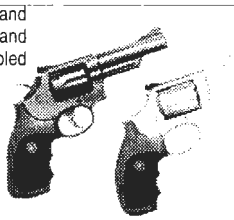

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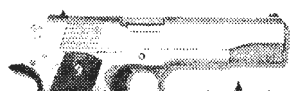

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COMMAND GUIDANCE

The Buck Stops With Us

by Robert K. Brown

One of the last great presidents of the United States was arguably a former artillery Captain, Harry S. Truman. Other than being a Democrat, Truman had zip in common with Bill Clinton. The buck always *stopped* at Truman's desk. With Clinton, the White House feigns innocence for every erupting bottom-feeder scandal, leaving Americans uncertain who is at the helm (is anyone?). During the character test of his generation, Truman pulled strings to get into WW I combat. Bill Clinton pulled strings during *his* character exam, to slug brews and feast upon one-world philosophy at Oxford. Paraphrasing a line from *Hamburger Hill:* "All he had to do was get his ass in the grass with the rest of us. He just had to show up."

Most recently, the arrogant misuse of FBI files has caused even the most drooling leftists of the press corps, who usually kowtow to any Yellow Dog wearing Democratic party tags, to draw parallels with the enemies list compiled by a paranoid Nixon. Nice try, except that Clinton makes Nixon look like a pristine model of civic virtue.

Clinton is more frightened by the American people than any other chief exec. Despite Secret Service opinions that it is *not justifiable*, Clinton and his wife have blocked off Pennsylvania Avenue in a wagon-circling attempt to retain elitist separation from the American people (and maybe to preserve Hillary's privacy for seminars by crystal-jangling New Age charlatans flitting in and out of the White House). Now, we find that the same FBI that Clinton has vested with KGB-ilk powers has provided derogatory information on U.S. citizens, potential turncoats to the Clintonista agenda of turning the U.S. from red, white and blue, to his U.N. team colors of blue and white.

At first it was only 200 files, now it is nearly *700*, which include the names of members of Congress who dared to buck Bill. Although both Craig Livingston and Anthony Marceca did this same kind of enemies research before, the press seems to treat *this* incident as an isolated mistake made by a bumbling president and his doting, p.c. spouse. The *clued-in* press corps now insists that Janet Reno's Justice Department will drain the enemies lists cesspool with the good help of the FBI. But can we trust the FBI to investigate itself, much less the White House? Will Louis Freeh, who has been Reno's "cornerman," conduct some scorching Q & As and take a magnified look at the White House's permanent phone and E-mail logs to ascertain who is lying and who is straight?

The Clintons have mangled the law when they could, or changed it in the so-called counter-terrorist bill, to give the FBI unprecedented powers to conduct black-bag jobs on private homes, tap phone lines and rip-off private property. Reno has ruled that criminal prosecution of citizens can be conducted under the all-American banner of ferreting out spies and terrorists, so that traditional constitutional safeguards of individual rights can be adroitly side-stepped — or plowed under. She has even established a *secret* court in the Justice Department — a Star Chamber, if you will — to legalize what the founding fathers called "unreasonable search and seizure" in our Bill of Rights.

We need to protect ourselves from terrorists, foreign agents, traitors, drug dealers and the like; no reasonable person disputes that. But, without going into a festering list of arrogant power abuses by the Clinton White House, the matters of flushing the Bill of Rights to create dossiers on political opponents and using the lame excuse of counter-terrorism to harass Americans, threatens the bedrock of our nation.

So, who can we trust to head the government? Almost *anybody* but Bill and Hillary. If you don't pull a lever against these despots come November, you might as well torch many of the *guarantees* we have under the Bill of Rights.

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SOF

VOL. 21 NO. 9
September 1996

FEATURES

"HEZ" HUNTERS
Mark H. Milstein
A guerrilla team's *Katyusha* rocket arcs southward from Lebanon; a computer geek in an Israeli army radar center coordinates return fire by artillery or jets. *SOF* observes "Operation Grapes of Wrath," the hit-and-miss campaign against *Hezbollah.* **31**

THE BOYS OF BONG SON
Sgt. Maj. William D. Waugh (Ret.)
It was Special Forces team A-321's graduation exercise for Regional Force trainees. All they had to do was infiltrate a large NVA camp, kill the enemy at sunrise, and get away — fast. But that last part was the trickiest. **36**

DIE-HARD SUBGUN
Frank W. James
Heckler & Koch's MP5 submachine gun is famous for reliability and cost-effectiveness. Now add "longevity" to the list: An MP5 used by NASA security consumed an amazing *571,600* rounds of ammo in its service life. **40**

***KRIS* TO KALASHNIKOV**
Don Kirk
Modern-day Moros, descended from fierce warriors who fought "Black Jack" Pershing 90 years ago, want Islamic rule on Mindanao island — and are willing to die for it. Are the Philippines headed for civil war? **44**

SHADOWS OF MANY DOUBTS
James L. Pate
Gun Gestapo shoots itself in the foot — *again:* Attorneys expose ATF record-keeping as so sloppy — a 50% error rate in 1994 — that many gun owners convicted of National Firearms Act violations might get new trials. (*Records? We don't need no stinkin' records.*) **48**

ASTRA'S ANSWER FOR CONCEALED CARRY
Peter G. Kokalis
Spanish arms manufacturer Astra introduces reliable, reasonably priced 9mm and .45 ACP compact handguns. After several thousand rounds on the test range *SOF*'s technical editor says, *Muy bueno.* **50**

BIG SKY SURRENDER
James L. Pate
The inside story the mainstream media couldn't get: Negotiators from the *politically incorrect* CAUSE Foundation team with "first-rate" FBI agents to defuse the Freemen standoff in Montana. (No shooting, no bloodshed — don't expect a TV movie.) **54**

REBELLION IN ZULULAND
Al J. Venter
In post-*apartheid* South Africa a hellish brew of cutthroat politics, rival tribes, savage criminals, and ambitious warlords threatens to boil over. Special units of police and military try to disarm this "proto-civil war." **58**

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Rebellion In Zululand — page 58 Al J. Venter

COVER

Robert Bruce

H&K's MP5 9mm submachine gun is the close-combat choice for special law-enforcement and military teams worldwide. Its reliability is matched by its durability, too: An MP5 used by guards at Kennedy Space Center fired a total of 571,600 rounds during training and qualification.

BULLETIN BOARD

SOF TELEVISION MOVIE

Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown announces that *SOF* has concluded contractual arrangements with Rysher Entertainment for production of a two-hour TV movie (and possible subsequent TV series) tentatively titled "Soldier Of Fortune Inc." Principal photography will kick-off this fall at locations in Hungary and South Florida. At press time, the story line is undecided but Simpson-Bruckheimer Films (whose just-released "The Rock" is doing BIG box office) is at the helm. *SOF* readers can look forward to an action-steeped and technically accurate project (the technical advisor is ex-SEAL Harry Humphries). The lead is yet to be cast but the premiere date may be early '97. Scan *SOF* and your local listings for updates.

STOLEN VALOR...THE MISREPRESENTATION OF THE VIETNAM VET IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

Bogus 'Nam vets are turning up faster than attorneys at hit-and-runs. (Check Aug.'s *SOF* for an exposé on Frank Dux, just one of many.) "Jug" Burkett, an author from Dallas, and Glenna Whitley have penned an insightful book chronicling more than 200 of the more outrageous individuals adept at perpetrating these blows to the jaws of *genuine* warriors who went, did, and oftentimes, died. These frauds do more than barroom posturing; they sometimes get elected to public office and even siphon-off lifetime pensions for their fabricated traumas and under-fire heroics. For info, contact B.G. "Jug" Burkett, P.O. Box 50366, Dallas, Texas 75250. Release date is expected to be late '96. *SOF* wishes to thank Mr. Burkett for his initial efforts and research in exposing Frank Dux.

ANOTHER BATF END RUN

BATF again is up to no good. Their latest tactic is to phone up a Federal Firearms License (FFL) dealer and "request" a large block of his/her firearms transfer records (FF4473s) and say someone will stop in the following day to pick them up. Wrong! These are the property of the FFL holder and may be "requested" only under *certain* circumstances. If you are on the receiving end of such a call, inform the caller that you are aware of the law and that The Gun Control Act, at 18 U.S.C. Sec. 923 (g)(1)(A) provides for an examination of records and inventory, with a warrant based upon reasonable cause. Sec. 923(g)(1)(B) reads as follows:

(B) The secretary (of Treasury) may inspect or examine the inventory and records of a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer without such reasonable cause or warrant —

(i) in the course of a reasonable inquiry during the course of a criminal investigation of a person or persons other than the licensee:

(ii) for ensuring compliance with the record keeping requirements of this chapter —

(I) not more than once during any 12-month period; or

(II) at any time with respect to records relating to a firearm involved in a criminal investigation that is traced to the license.

(iii) when such inspection or examination may be required for determining the disposition of one or more particular firearms in the course of a bona fide criminal investigation.

In other words, this section gives the only reason(s) that BATF can come into an FFL holder's premises (gun shop), which are

1. An active warrant issued by competent authority,
2. As part of an annual compliance inspection, or
3. In a bona fide criminal investigation

Anonymous

Typical bureaucratic overstatement. Need we say more?

AUSSIE WEAPONS ROUNDUP?

An *SOF* reader from Queensland, Australia, writes in part: "On 28 April ['96] a lone gunman with a semiautomatic rifle wandered around a tourist settlement and killed 35 people; men, women and children. The *unarmed* locals ... and *unarmed* police did not stop him until he was cornered in a farmhouse overnight and set himself on fire the next day. ... In 12 days, without consultation with gun users or owners groups, a conservative and normally mildly pro-gun government has been scared by a lone lunatic into the most draconian anti-gun laws anywhere in the region!"

FEDS PEEK INTO PRC'S ARMS-EXPORT COMPANIES

Poly Technologies and Norinco, mainland China's major state-controlled arms exporters, are under investigation for allegedly smuggling automatic assault weapons into the United States. In the largest seizure of automatic weapons in American history, sting agents snagged nearly 2,000 AK-47s in Oakland, Calif., last March. Individuals from Thailand, Cambodia and North Korea also are thought to have been involved in the plot.

AWARD RECIPIENT

John Jordan, *SOF* contributor and president of Global Operation Fire Rescue Services Inc. (the saver of numerous lives in Sarajevo), received the 1996 Humanitarian Award from the National Conference of Rhode Island and Southeastern New England. Well deserved, John.

ATTENTION MOTORCYCLISTS

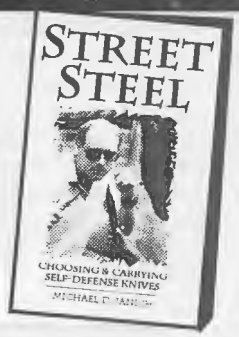
Interested in joining *SOF* foreign correspondent Chuck Fremont for a

PALADIN PRESS

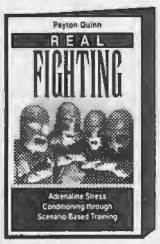
STREET STEEL

Choosing and Carrying Self-Defense Knives

by Michael D. Janich



Every day the media bombard us with the ugly reality of barbaric crimes being committed all over the U.S. against people from all walks of life. Meanwhile, in a misguided attempt to keep violence at bay, politicians have launched an all-out gun-control campaign. While failing to deter criminals, this strategy puts many law-abiding citizens in a bind: while they are primarily responsible for defending themselves, they are being denied the most effective means of doing so. For many, the ideal weapon of compromise is the knife. This book fills the void that exists when it comes to information on how to choose a self-defense knife and carry it on a day-to-day basis. It contains all the information you need to select a knife that will conform to your style of dress, image and habits and thus serve you most effectively on the street. Only when you are perfectly comfortable carrying a weapon will you carry it consistently. **Street Steel** will help you make the right choice so you are sure to have your knife when you need it most. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, 112 pp. **$23.00**

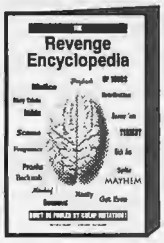


REAL FIGHTING
Adrenaline Stress Conditioning through Scenario-Based Training
by Peyton Quinn

Techniques learned in the dojo rarely work in a real fight. Here the author of **A Bouncer's Guide to Barroom Brawling** offers a practical solution. Learn how to control the rush of adrenaline into your system and harness it effectively to shut down the bully's antics or pound him into the pavement when all else fails. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, 200 pp. **$19.95**

STREET STOPPERS
The Latest Handgun Stopping Power Street Results
by Evan Marshall and Ed Sanow

This long-awaited sequel to **Handgun Stopping Power** gives the very latest results of hundreds of actual shootings involving every major handgun caliber, including the hot new .40 S&W. Also covers exotic ammo street results, the controversial Strasbourg Tests on live goats, the Fuller Index for predicting stopping power and much more. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, 384 pp. **$39.95**



THE REVENGE ENCYCLOPEDIA

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by Charles Stephens

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Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Gunfighting by a Guy Who Put His Life on the Line to Find Out

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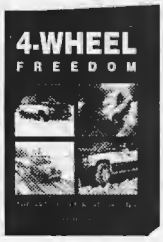
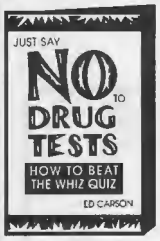


4-WHEEL FREEDOM
The Art of Off-Road Driving
by Brad DeLong

Whether you're thinking about buying a 4-wheel drive vehicle or are already an experienced 4WDer, there is something in this complete guide for you. Learn how to drive on snow, ice, rocks, mud and hills, plus how to choose and use off-road tires, winches and other specialty gear. Every 4WD owner should own this handy book. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, illus., 176 pp. **$25.00**



JUST SAY NO TO DRUG TESTS
How to Beat the Whiz Quiz
by Ed Carson

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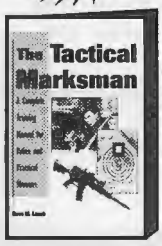

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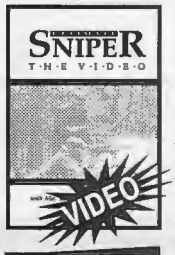

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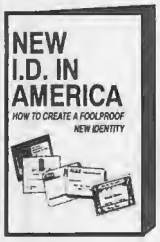

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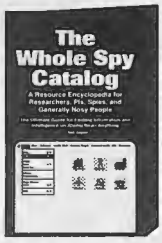

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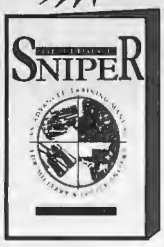

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POTOMAC PAYOFF?

Texe Marrs' newsletter *Flashpoint* (1708 Patterson Road, Austin, Texas 78733) recently highlighted some interesting information backgrounding the Croatian jetliner crash. "At the time his U.S. Air Force T-43 (modified Boeing 737) slammed into a mountain in Croatia, Ron Brown was in dire political and legal hot water. A special prosecutor looking into allegations that Brown had taken $700,000 in bribes from Vietnamese officials was, reportedly, on the verge of issuing a criminal, grand-jury indictment." If true, we wonder who else was involved. We may never know, though, since the investigation has been tanked.

THANKS FOR THE VOLUMES

The *SOF* BOOKS FOR THE TROOPS drive is standing down. Our sincere thanks to all of you who sent books (nearly 30,000!), most of which have been dispatched to our military personnel in Bosnia. Bob Brown and the *SOF* staff salute you!

WHY ARE WE NOT SURPRISED?

Gun-show promoter Harry Lamplugh is launching a counter-offensive in his legal war with the BATF (see "Why Are The Good Guys Wearing Black?" *SOF*, May '95). His lawyer, Robert E. Sanders, a former head of the ATF's criminal-enforcement division and occasional *Soldier Of Fortune* contributor, announced plans to file a civil suit against ATF accusing the Gun Gestapo of waging a politically motivated vendetta against law-abiding gun owners.

In May '94, ATF agents and members of the Pennsylvania State Police raided Lamplugh's rural home near Wellsboro, terrorizing the family, killing family pets, seizing $18,000 worth of property and a puzzling plethora of personal documents. The latter included birth certificates, old high-school report cards of the Lamplugh boys and baptismal certificates (which these jack-booted goons probably had never seen before). Most significant, though, was the ATF's confiscation of records of federal firearms licensees who sell guns through the 40 shows Lamplugh organizes and promotes in the eastern United States each year. Other seized records contained the names and addresses of the 70,000 members of the Borderline Gun Collectors Association.

Sanders contends it is all part of a broader effort by ATF to target and wage war against law-abiding gun owners — just because they own guns.

"There is an indiscriminate focus [by ATF] on anyone who owns guns," Sanders said. "They are in total consonance with the Clinton administration's anti-gun agenda and with the gun-control groups."

As a result of the raid, Lamplugh faces a criminal trial on charges he was a felon in possession of a firearm and conspired to engage in the firearms business without a license. Lamplugh says he promotes gun shows, but does not himself sell guns. The felon-in-possession charge is apparently related to his

Continued on page 12

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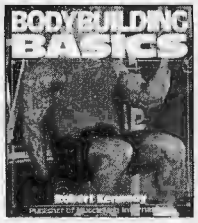

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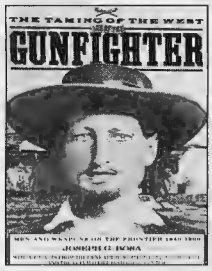

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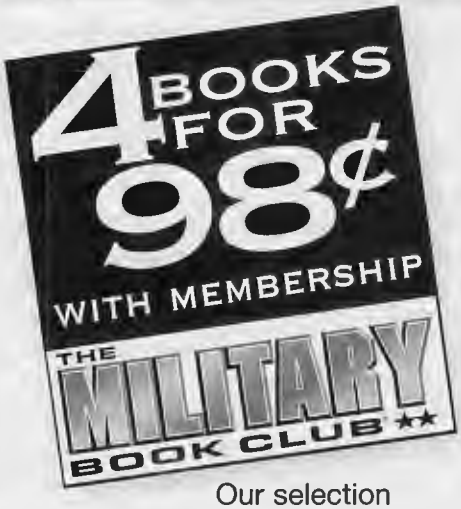

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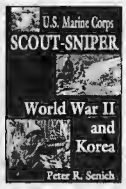

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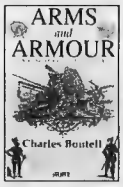

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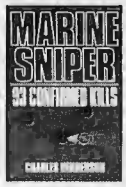

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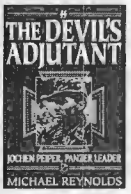

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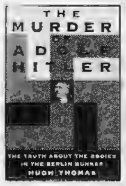

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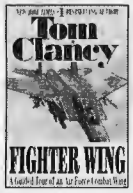

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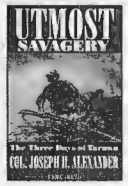

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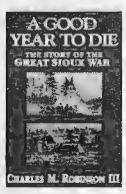

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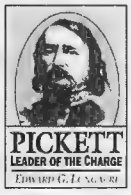

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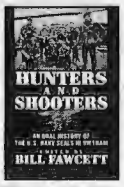

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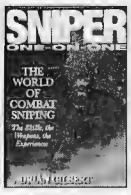

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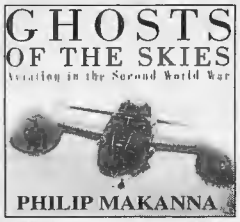

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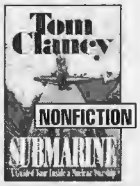

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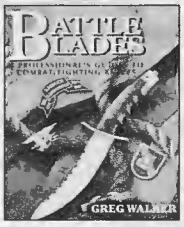

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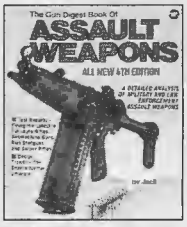

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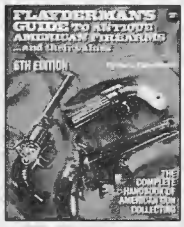

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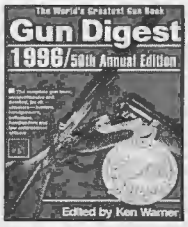

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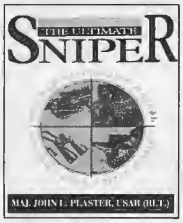

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Continued from page 8

being accused as a teenager of shoplifting cigarettes while with a group of friends. Lamplugh insists he has no felony convictions, and no conclusive record of such action can be located. No trial date has been set. —*JLP*

CRIME PAYS...AND PAYS...AND PAYS

Reuters reports that heroin warlord Khun Sa is living quite nicely in an exclusive neighborhood in Yangon, the capital of Myanmar (Burma).

Maybe the bankers and others who pulled his strings chipped in for the luxury retirement digs.

LATE BULLETIN: U.S. POWS IN NORTH KOREA?

The Washington Post (15 June '96) reports "A Pentagon analyst who evaluates reports of prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action has concluded 10 to 15 American soldiers from the Korean War and possibly the Vietnam War are alive in North Korea and may be held as POWs."

A March memo by analyst In Sung Lee provided no details of reported sightings of Americans more recent than 1979. But it said without elaboration that there had been "a recent flurry of very compelling reports."

"The memo was given to reporters yesterday by the office of Rep. Robert K. Dornan (R-Calif.) [specifically by Al Santoli]. Dornan staff members said they received it from someone in the Pentagon."

INFORMATION WANTED

Anyone with information concerning the tragic Gander [Newfoundland] Arrow flight crash, that killed 250 members of the 101st Airborne, is urged to contact SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306; phone: (303) 449-3750.

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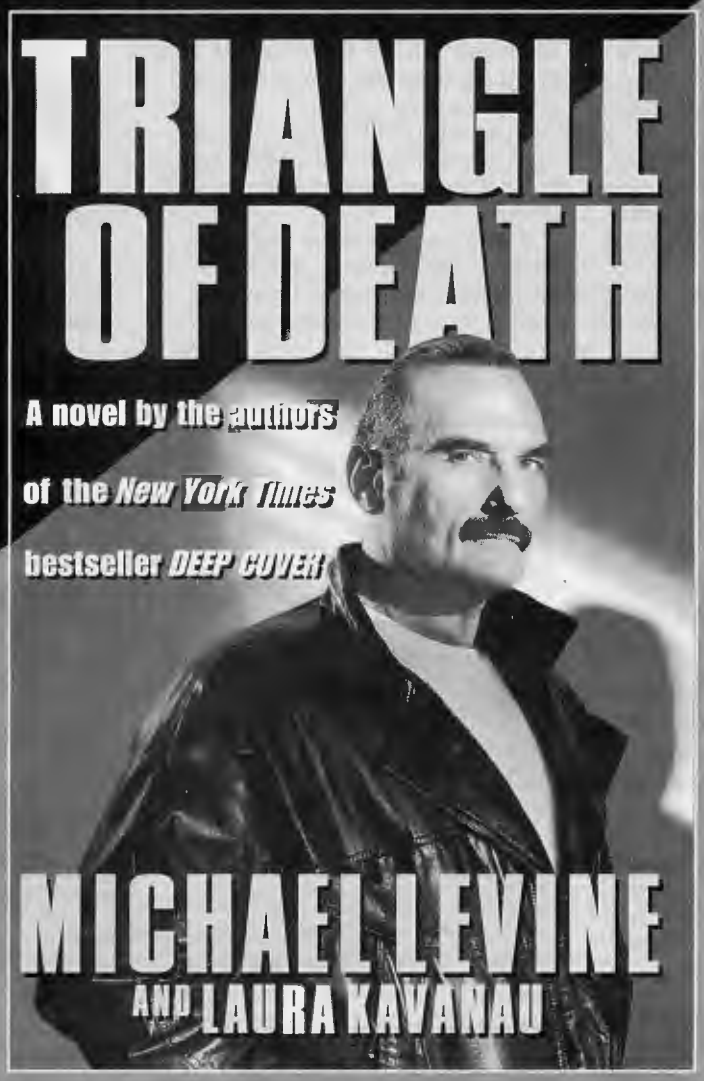

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Delacorte Press

I WAS THERE

Name, Rank & Serial Number

by William R. Livingstone

The heavy wooden door slammed shut.

It was Saturday, 11 November 1944, nine days after my B-17, the "Lucky Duck," was shot down near the Holland-German border. My crew and I had been placed in solitary confinement at the *Luftwaffe* POW interrogation center, Frankfurt, Germany.

The short, muscular German guard carried a Luger on his hip. I asked him for something to eat, but was ignored. Well, I thought, he doesn't understand English.

When that door slammed behind me, I pondered why I was in solitary confinement — the "Viking's Punishment," I recently read. The Germans wanted to break me; to get me to spill everything I knew about my outfit, the 95th Bomb Group, based at Norwich, England.

I stretched out on the saggy cot, looked up through a tiny window, and saw nothing but the bottoms of slate-gray clouds. A drizzle fell silently and I was soon asleep. When I awoke in the middle of the night, I thought, "Where am I?" Then I remembered. I envisioned my folks and my fiancée back home in California. My situation seemed so unreal. I drifted off again.

Shortly after daylight, I awoke to a key grinding in the door. As it squeaked open, the guard ordered me into the corridor and down to a vacant latrine. When I returned to my cell, on my cot was a bowl of porridge and a spoon. Latrine-break and chow came again at 1700, but there was never enough to eat.

On the second day I discovered that if I shouted loudly enough, my B-17 crewmate, Vinnie Lauricella, could hear; and if I put my ear against the concrete block wall when he shouted, I could just barely hear him. About the only thing we "talked" about was food.

On the third day while I shouted to Vinny, the guard opened my door and told me, in German — but no mistaking his meaning — to stop the shouting. By then, pretty disgusted with the arrangement, I uttered an emphatic, "Fuck you."

That's when I learned he *did* understand English, at least *those* words. He returned to my cell and angrily asked what I had said — at least I assumed that's what he demanded. I replied that I wanted a *book* to read – hoping the two words sounded enough alike to fool him.

Nights were spent fitfully sleeping; the daytimes, other than exercising, I passed working mental mathematical problems.

The eat-exercise-sleep routine continued until the fourth day. At 1000 the guard unlocked my cell door and gestured for me to follow.

In an adjacent building, after passing a few doors, the guard knocked on another and I heard, "*Einzug* (enter)."

There was a massive mahogany desk in front of a large organdy-curtained window with warm sunshine flowing through it. Behind the desk was a smiling Luftwaffe officer wearing an immaculate uniform. He was well-built and appeared to be about 50. His light brown hair was combed back. He reminded me of Paul Douglas, the movie star.

I had a 13-day beard, a soiled olive-drab uniform that I hadn't been out of since the day we were shot down, and the same heavy flight boots I wore when I bailed out. When we were first captured the guards took everything except our clothes and a single dog tag.

As I walked into his office, the officer stepped around his desk, extended his hand, and in excellent English said, "Ah, Sergeant Livingstone, please sit down." He shook my hand firmly and gave me a fatherly pat on the shoulder. He continued to smile as he walked back around his desk and sat down. After offering me a cigarette, he reached into a desk drawer, pulled out a printed form, and took a fountain pen from its holder.

Turning more serious, but still with a friendly voice, he said, "Sergeant Livingstone, I must apologize for the conditions here, but I assure you that you will be going to a very nice Red Cross camp with all your flight crew very soon — just as soon as we fill out this form."

I remembered our orders: If you're captured, don't tell anything but your name, rank, and serial number. I noticed the dog tag taken from me the first day was lying in the middle of his desk.

Mug shots off original incarceration form obtained by author after his camp was liberated.

"First of all, Sergeant Livingstone, your full name, please."

"William Robert Livingstone." He wrote it on his form. So far so good.

"Your rank?"

"Sergeant."

"And your serial number, please."

"Three, nine, five, five, two, five, seven, five." All of this information, except my rank, was on my dog tag in front of him.

"Thank you Sergeant Livingstone. Now, please give me the number of the bomb group and squadron you were with." He was still polite, but out of bounds.

"Sorry, I can only give you my name, rank, and serial number." I pretended to be polite too.

He smiled again, this time with an

expression of superiority, "That's all right, we know you were in the 95th Bomb Group." You'd better, I thought; it was in block numbers 8 feet tall on the tail of our "big-ass bird." The Focke-Wulf 190 pilot who machine- gunned us couldn't miss seeing it.

"What was your target the day your airplane was shot down, please?" he asked next, still smiling.

"I can only give you my name, rank, and serial number."

"Well, we know that your target was Merseburg." Brilliant, thought I. Merseburg was the *only* target the 8th Air Force hit on 2 November.

"Now," he said, with only a faint smile on his face, "how many aircraft are assigned to the 95th Bomb Group?"

"I can't tell you that."

"But Sergeant Livingstone, I cannot authorize your relocation to the very nice Red Cross camp until we fill out this form."

"Sorry, I can only give you my name, rank..."

"Sergeant Livingstone," he cut me off sternly, "without your cooperation I don't know how long you will have to remain here in solitary confinement." The polite demeanor had vanished. Now he was frowning, as was I.

But I refused to answer further questions.

Finally, after 20 minutes, he pressed a buzzer and the guard re-entered. The officer muttered something in German and offhandedly motioned me back to my cell.

Just as I reached the door, I turned, and asked, "Could you tell me who won the presidential election in the United States?" I was shot down five days before election day, which was 7 November 1944. Thomas E. Dewey ran against Franklin D. Roosevelt that year.

He looked up from his desk and with a spark of interest on his face and said, "Roosevelt won."

"Thank you."

"Is that good?"

"I think so."

His frown of impatience returned. "We'll talk about it next time."

Two days later I was escorted back to the same interrogation officer who, this time, was quite brusque. He asked me all the questions for which he had no answers, and again warned me that I wouldn't be transferred to the "very nice" camp until I helped him fill out his form. This interview lasted only five minutes. No mention was made of President Roosevelt.

That afternoon, together with all of my "Lucky Duck" crewmates, I was shipped out to the "very nice" Red Cross camp.

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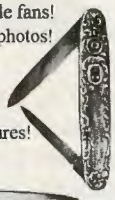

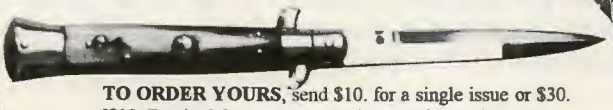

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WORLD SITREP

1 UNITED STATES

Joining partial global ban on landmines, White House halts U.S. use of non-self-destructing ("dumb") anti-personnel mines, orders stockpile of 4 million destroyed by 1999; but retains right to use "smart" (timed self-destructing) mines to protect U.S. troops and to keep "dumb" mines along Korea DMZ and for training. Mines around U.S. naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba, will be removed.

Greatest threat today to U.S. Navy surface ships in coastal waters: fast-attack craft armed with anti-ship missiles. Some 4,000 speedy, missile ships are now in 70 navies worldwide. Only practical counter: continual Navy air cover.

Joint Task Force 6 op puts 60 Special Forces soldiers on horseback recons along Southwest border, assisting Border Patrol drug seizures.

2 RUSSIA

Ukraine fulfills U.S.-funded nuclear-disarmament pact: Last of 1,900 (former Soviet) strategic warheads sent to Russia for destruction.

Navy's first deputy commander complains that intrusion of NATO submarines in Russian waters shows West has not changed military mindset.

Soviet-era SpecOps that survived into present-day Russia include *Spetsnaz*: 8 army and 4 naval brigades (all understrength), controlled by military intelligence; *Spetsgruppa Grom* ("Thunder"): Foreign Intelligence Service's assassination/sabotage team (KGB created); *Spetsgruppa Alfa*: Federal Security Service's antiterrorist/hostage-rescue team (KGB created); and *OMON*: military-equipped riot police.

6 ISRAEL

Rejecting policies of liberal predecessor Peres, new Prime Minister Netanyahu says strategic Golan Heights will not be returned to Syria for peace, Jerusalem never will be divided, and refuses to consider an independent Palestinian state. Netanyahu's election alarms Arab countries. Government of Turkey, an enemy of Syria, welcomes new Israeli government and sees greater military cooperation.

Israel and U.S. to jointly develop "Nautilus" anti-missile laser as possible defense against *Katyusha* attacks from southern Lebanon.

7 THAILAND

Bangkok orders army to tighten border security as Burma's factional fighting spills into northwest Thailand. In two years some 70,000 Burmese have fled to refugee camps just inside Thailand to escape fighting between troops of SLORC, the Rangoon junta, and the Karen National Union. (Meanwhile, SLORC institutes harsh new law curbing Burma's pro-democracy movement.)

12 INDIA

Maoist rebels of United Liberation Front of Assam kill government minister and eight policemen in ambush. Wave of violence in Assam kills nearly 100.

10 SOUTH KOREA

Defection of North Korean pilot satisfactorily tests Allied air defense: Low-flying MiG-19 immediately appears on U.S. and South Korean radar; F-16s quickly intercept the aircraft over western coast. (In 1983, MiG-19 defector entered South's airspace unopposed.)

11 AFGHANISTAN

In peace pact with President Rabbani, leader of *Hezb-e-Islami* rebel faction, Hekmatyar, is named prime minister. Meanwhile, Taliban rebels continue their civil war against Kabul government.

15 MEXICO

Government increases military's budget 44% in 1996, compared to 1995's.

Responding to crime wave, President Zedillo assigns army commanders to take control of Mexico City's demoralized police force.

3

CANADA

Defense experts say political fallout from 1993 Somalia scandal (which brought disbandment of Airborne Regiment) has prevented major equipment purchases, including naval and search-and-rescue helicopters and 4 used British submarines.

4

GERMANY

In Berlin meetings, NATO ministers restructure alliance so European members, with unanimous NATO approval, can perform military missions (including peacekeeping) without full participation by U.S. military.

Intelligence service reports that 70 offices of *Hamas*, radical Islamic group, operate in Germany.

5

BOSNIA

U.N. refugee-relief officials predict up to 2/3 of the 2 million displaced Bosnians likely will *never* return to their original homes.

U.S. government reportedly blocks Croatian accord with Iran to exchange military officers, and for shipment of Iranian surface-to-surface missiles to Croatia and Bosnia.

Spring riots of rival civilians point to need for thousands of NATO military policemen, rather than so many combat-arms units.

8

TAIWAN

Taipei announces plan to build underground submarine base on southwest coast. France delivers first of six missile frigates purchased by Taiwan navy.

9

CHINA

Beijing intends to implement U.N. Law of the Sea Treaty, expanding China's territorial waters from 12-mile limit to 200. Taiwan, the Philippines and Vietnam denounce this claim as a power grab and threat to regional stability.

13

BAHRAIN

Relations between ruling family and Iran worsen following arrest of 29 members of "Military Wing of *Hezbollah* — Bahrain" in coup plot. Emir and Sunni Muslim government accuse Tehran of fomenting unrest in Bahrain's Shi'ite majority.

Upgrade of air defense against possible Iranian threat is priority; at least 14 more F-16s and improved command and control network are sought.

14

ANGOLA

U.N. observers certify UNITA front has disarmed 30,000 troops, as agreed. Marxist President dos Santos grants amnesty to UNITA leader Savimbi and his rebel officers, allowing participation in national army and elections.

16

DENMARK

Turf war between U.S.-originated motorcycle gangs, Hell's Angels and Bandidos (and local allies), escalates to use of stolen anti-tank rockets and hand grenades.

17

ITALY

New center-left government wants to expand Italy's role in international peacekeeping. Army plans to create special brigade with veterans of Bosnia and Somalia peace missions. Government officials also want to increase foreign role of *Carabinieri* military police.

World SitRep is excerpted in part from the biweekly newsletter *For Your Eyes Only: An Open Intelligence Summary of Current Military Affairs*. Published by Tiger Publications, P.O. Box 8759, Amarillo, Texas, 79114-8759; subscriptions are $70 per year (26 issues), $74.38 in Texas. Sample issue available for $3. Those interested in reliable, up-to-date world intel are encouraged to subscribe.

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Long Barrels, Short Range

Text & Photos by Frank W. James

Everyone has heard the tired adage about the misguided idiot who brought a knife to a gunfight. Well, an extension of that witticism focuses on the nearsighted nitwit who took a pistol to a rifle fight.

No one has put more emphasis on rifle fighting at what most would describe as handgun distances than Clint Smith of Thunder Ranch. He pioneered and teaches the concept in his Urban Rifle Course.

During the course I attended, the vast majority were armed with some type of an AR-15 derivative. The exceptions included a pair of semiauto-only H&K MP5s in 9mm Parabellum, an M14 in 7.62 NATO, and an early production Costa Mesa AR-18.

The danger in hallways or any building-clearing op, is the possibility of unseen doors. Here Smith illustrates how you can concentrate on clearing a room to the right, yet miss a potential threat just down the hall.

Smith dismisses any criticisms of the .223/5.56mm NATO round.

He is also an advocate of the .308 Winchester/7.62mm NATO cartridge, as long as the shooter can make hits. All Thunder Ranch courses emphasize hits. Misses don't count.

The importance of shooting for accuracy is seen in the first three days of the five-day course. These are spent on the White Range going through a number of drills and practice routines.

The primary firing positions: offhand, prone and kneeling were covered. Further, kneeling was subdivided into speed kneeling, brace kneeling and California kneeling. Secondary firing positions such as Olympic offhand, squat and two variations of sitting were also covered.

A particularly gruesome drill practiced each day, fosters team-member cooperation geared toward law-enforcement personnel. The drill requires a two-man team to operate in relays, shooting from a low-wall stepladder-style barricade, firing two rounds at a 50-yard target from each step of the ladder.

If someone, unseen and unnoticed, on the other side of the corner grabs the rifle, Smith instructs to step back smartly and swiftly, while forcing the wrists of the opponent against the sharp edge of the corner – encouraging them to release the weapon.

It was a physically demanding drill because both team members start 10 yards behind the barricade and approach it in a duckwalk, or low crouch using the barricade as cover. Upon firing two rounds, the non-shooting team member guided his partner back in a low crouch or duckwalk with his muzzle pointed downrange and on target.

The indoor simulators at Thunder Ranch make the Urban Rifle Course valuable and worthwhile. The Terminator is a simulator divided into two parts. Each half can run training scenarios concurrently — providing students with a minimum amount of bleacher butt while classmates undergo one-on-one instruction.

Hallways, doorways, windows, and crawlspaces are deadly funnels of incoming fire and the Terminator features every funnel imaginable. The Terminator involves all aspects of a building search. How to approach a door and how to turn a corner were only two of the vital points covered once inside. The instruction also covered weapon-retention techniques.

The Lightning Tower is another indoor simulator with four floors and eight different flights of stairs. The teaching points for working up or down stairs were enforced. The live-fire training in the tower normally starts outside with the student climbing a metal ladder bolted to the side of the tower. Clearing begins once he reaches the top floor.

Thunderville is a simulated urban street environment complete with sidewalks, storefronts and a variety of computer-controlled target scenarios. This stage of training requires both physical agility and maximum marksmanship. The targets appear and disappear in rapid and unpredictable time displays. Target neutralization requires hasty and difficult firing positions.

The realism factor in Thunderville is quite high and the student quickly realizes the value of good basic shooting techniques that must be employed in a number of different positions to score hits on hostiles.

Thunderville is a stress simulator run in normal daylight, well-lighted darkness, and your normal "Oh Shit, I can't see nothing" blackness. Working with a rifle at night is a whole new experience for most shooters.

Many learned the Harries, Rogers and other techniques for working with

Continued on page 68

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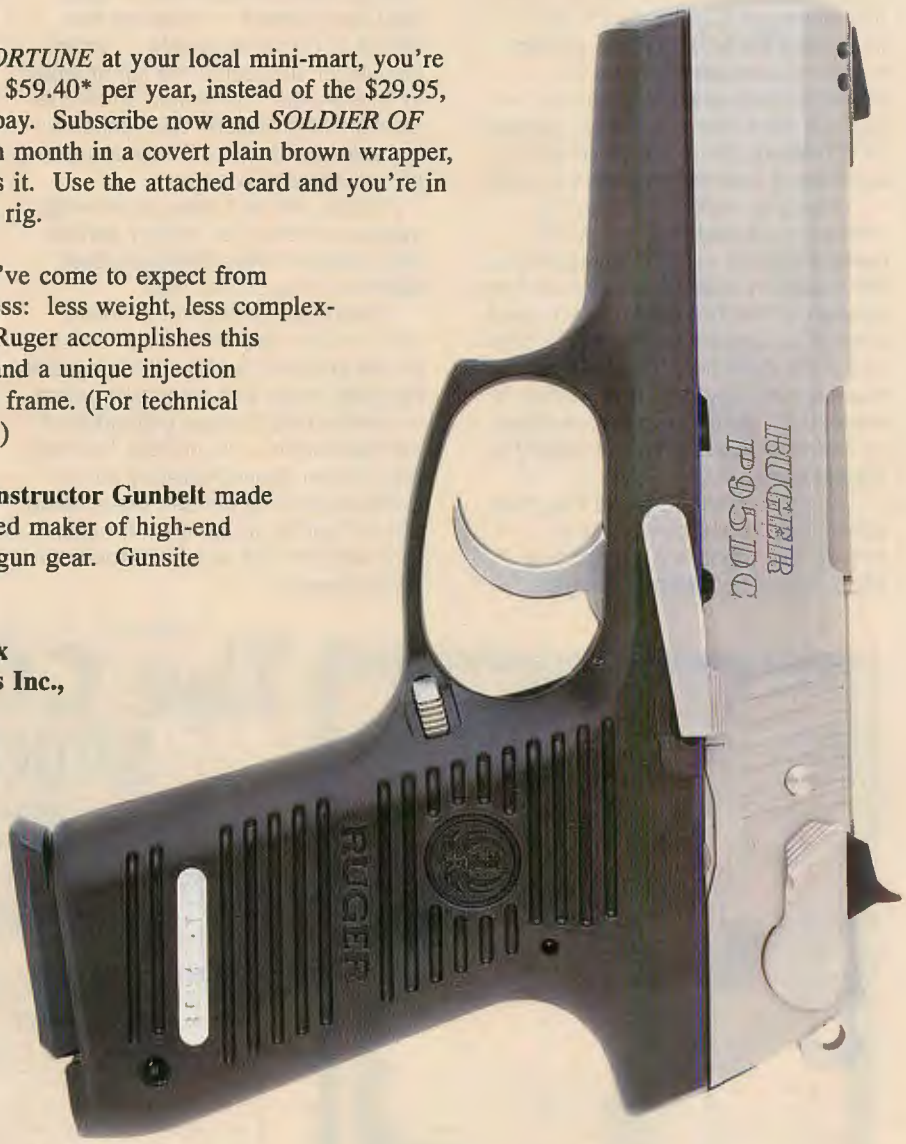

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• For name of prize winner, send SASE to September/October '96 Sweepstakes Winners List, c/o SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306

SLICK WILLIE WATCH

SOME COMMANDER IN CHIEF...

We could devote this space to the ongoing Whitewater probe or the White House's *honest mistake* misuse of secret FBI files. Instead, this is a good time to reflect on how Bill Clinton has managed to get on such bad terms with the U.S. military. Service members who are students of American history likely have reached (quietly) the same conclusion as most *SOF* readers: He is not on anyone's short list of best commanders in chief.

There's far more to it than his Vietnam draft-dodging; that's old news. Besides, nobody is suggesting the president must be a decorated war veteran, or for that matter even a *veteran.* (The Constitution certainly doesn't.) But it does help if that leader holds our military men and women in something approaching high esteem — and vice versa. And that clearly is not the case.

Our take on this issue is that most active-duty troops *do not like or respect* this man. And it's not only about dwindling defense budgets.

This is a president who is keen on *symbolism.* And the Airborne community last winter was not amused by the symbolism — a news photo — of Clinton sporting a borrowed Airborne beret during a hasty visit with U.S. troops recently arrived in Bosnia. Months later, he infuriated troops, past and present — including five Medal of Honor recipients — when his lawyer suggested the commander in chief merited protection under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act in seeking a delay to Paula Jones's sexual-harassment suit.

Fact is, Bill and Hillary's left-wing yuppie contempt for military service and tradition belies their very best Memorial Day sound bites.

Getting his political butt kicked early on over the "lift the ban" fiasco — the president's attempted payback for gays' votes and campaign dollars — seems only to have emboldened his resolve for a PC military. No less than former Navy Secretary John Lehman recently derided this erosion of the "macho, tough-warrior culture" that, like it or not, is an ingredient to winning wars.

In television interviews, Lehman blamed this White House for defense policies in which "political correctness and the social aspects of the military is really the primary focus." Speaking specifically about the Navy (which, unfortunately, has had a series of scandals in recent years), he added: "You have to remember the Navy's job is to sink ships, to rain fire on America's enemies and to basically manage violence. This is not a touchy-feely bureaucracy here. ... I really object and think we have to be very concerned about this trend."

It's a *military* thing, Mr. President. You wouldn't understand.

YOUNG BILL IN THE *SOYUZ...*

An *SOF* contributor compiled this list of U.S. servicemen killed or declared MIA in Southeast Asia, 31 December 1969 to 10 January 1970 — the same period in which college student Bill Clinton visited Moscow, USSR:

William Ahart, Wayne Allen,

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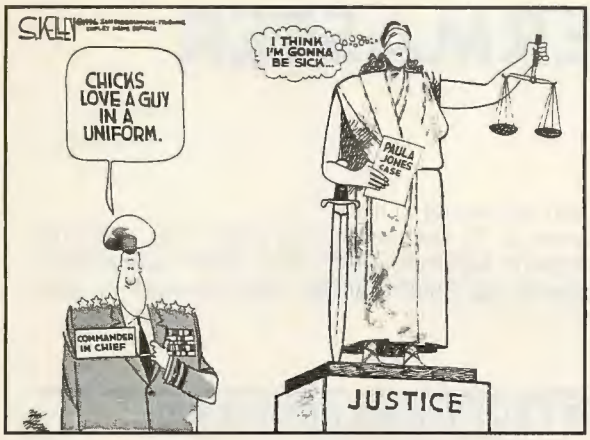

William Barnes, Larry Bartlett, Roy Bass, William Becker, Billie Bedsworth, Edgar Bishop, Thomas Blanks, Clifford Blend, Paul Blunt, Norris Borgman, Kenneth Boward, Larry Bradley, Richard Brant, James Brennan, Hubert Brinson, Howard Brown, Steven Brown, Tanner Brown, Benjamin Buchanan, Robert Burns, Gale Butcher Jr., Clair Butz, William Campbell, Bruce Carlton, Robert Carmichael, Wayne Cole, Golguis Colon Rodriguez, David Coppernoll, Herbert Crosby, Thomas Cross, Willard Croy, Michael D'Angelico, Gary Davis, John DeRoo, Monte DeVere, Dennis Debner, Gary Lee Dempsey, Richard Derosier, Richard Dicus, Warren Donahe, Gardner Dorsey, Frank Dunsmere, Gary Eicheler, Harold Eisert, Ronald Embree, Gary Ericson, William Erkes, Harry Farmer, Robert Fatica, Roger Fellers, Harlan Gammons, Raul Garcia Jr., Gary Garner, Walter Garstkiewicz, Cye Gary, Carl Gilbert, Russell Gilbrech, William Gilmore Jr., Charles Godfrey, Roy Godowns, Xavier Gomez, Terry Gorslene, Francis Graziosi, Steven Green, Roger Greenway, Larry Griffith, Jose Guersero Jr., Alfred Hall, John Hargreaves, Charles Hartung, Mickey Hawkins, Willie Hayes, Reid Henningsen, Richard Hibbler, Michael Hoff, George Holtschneider, Ronald Hopkins, Roger Howes, Patrick Hu, John Hurst, Gerald Jackson, Ronald Jenniges, David Jones, Dennis Kabara, Jerry Kays, Russel Kayser, Charles Klancke, Kenneth Klepin, Henry Klinger, Claude Knight, Roger Kvernes, Larry Lamb, Joseph Lauinger, Roger Leaser, James Lega, John Lehecka, Tedd Lewis, Donald Lewter, Reginald Lindsey, Ronnie Lindstrom, Joseph Lozano, Michael Lund, Terry Lund, Michael Lyne, Neile Mackay, Christopher Markey, Scottie Massey, Raymnond May, Lenus Mead, Tom Metcalf, James Mitchell, James McCabe, Robert Ochab, Gene Olson, John Ordner, Danny Overton, Dennis Peek, Kenneth Perry, Beryl Peters, *Danny J. Petersen (MOH)*, Ronald Pickart, Randall Ramsden, Harold Rappaport, Danny Rayborn, William Reddick, John Reilly, John Resteck Jr., John Rice, Larry Robinson, Michael Robinson, Matthew Roche, Julian Rodriguez, Craig Rogers, Rodney Rogers, LaRoy Roth, Clinton Ruckle, James Rutlegde, Herman Sanchez, Jimmy Sanders, Richard Schmidt, Barney Smith, John Smith Jr., Francis Snee Jr., Felix Solis, Robert Sombati, Bernard Sowder, John Sparks, Eddie Spivey, Oliver Stamps, William Stefko, Jimmy Still, Donald Sudbrink, Manuel Tavares, Richard Thomas, Michael Vickery, Larry Villaneueva, Mark Vincent, William Waddle, Boyd Wade, Frank Walker, Willie Walker Jr., Lawrence Warf, Robert Waren, James Watson, Gene Wells, James Westphal, Raymond White III, James Whitmore, Jimmy Whitson, Dean Wilderspun, Charles Willard, Duane Williams, Richard Williams, Waldo Williams, Robert Wright, James Zumbrin, Frank Zydzik Jr.

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Already purveyors of the leading wave of water-filtration systems, the folks at SweetWater have one-upped themselves with the introduction of their WalkAbout microfilter: a unit weighing only 8.5 ounces that will filter water at the rate of .7 liters per minute. Keep in mind these "filters" are not like straining gunky water through your handkerchief: We're talking about a microfilter that removes 99.9+% *cryptosporidium* and *giardia*, 99.9999% of bacteria, and 99.99% of virus. This unit filters out more than those nasty GI iodine tablets kill — and weighs less than a half-canteen of water. If you drink water, and lots of folks do, you should have one of these micro-dandies in your emergency kit, go-pack or vehicle. One-step cleaning process, three-year warranty. Complete line of accessories and replacements. Only $35; replacement filters (good for 100 gallons) only $12.50. Used and heartily endorsed by *SOF*. Contact: SweetWater, Dept. SOF, 2505 Trade Center Ave., Suite D, Longmont, CO 80503; phone: 303-678-0447 or 1-800-55-SWEET; fax: 303-678-0457.

PASSPORTS TO SAFETY

If your old lady has hidden your passport, then we can't help. But if you need a decoy *false* (as opposed to counterfeit) passport to surrender to terrorists, hijackers, angry anti-American mobs or assorted other weirdoes, then we recommend Safeguard Services' false passports. False, you say? Yes, false, but *not* home-made. What Safeguard Services has cleverly done is to reproduce official passports from more than a dozen countries that no longer exist as legal entities — such as Dutch Guiana, Guinea, Samoa, British Honduras, Ceylon, New Granada, Netherlands East Indies, New Hebrides, Rhodesia, et al. — everything from British Guiana to Zanzibar. Passports come complete with an assortment of phony stamps. Also available are other personal documents such as driver's licenses and library cards. Although of very high quality and probably good enough to get you through the gate in many Third-World countries, these are *not* sold as travel documents. Sold as novelty items, they are not legitimate documents and are designed only to fool itinerant terrorists and hijackers. They may also satisfy the occasional hotel clerk who wants to [illegally] hold your passport; or, give your old lady something to hide.

You'll need to fill out the detailed order form, available from Safeguard Services, Dept. SOF, 1305 Grand Ave., #500, Nogales, AZ 85621; phone: 520-442-4429 or 520-287-5161.

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Available from Deutsche Optik (division of Sunset Cliffs Merchandising), Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 7518, San Diego, CA 92167.

Price? Well, if you have a yacht basin or live near a clothing-optional beach, the price won't matter.

WORLD'S SMALLEST NIGHT OPTIC

The Gnome from Visiontek is not only the world's smallest night optic device, it has a built-in infrared illuminator. Diopter adjustments can be made for individual eyes, and it has a separate adjustment for range that can focus on objects up to 360 feet away. Has power-saving, plunger on/off switch to maximize life of its two AAA batteries — all well protected in a rugged all-metal housing. Features: 1.8X magnification, 30-degree field of view, 8-inch to 360-foot range (starlight) and 8-inch to 30-foot range with illuminator in total darkness. Weighs only 10.6 ounces, is an incredible 5.35x 2.5x 1.5-inches in size. Available from Visiontek, Dept. SOF, 1200 Industrial Road #17, San Carlos, CA 94070; phone: 800-720-7098; fax: 415-508-4460.

New, Eye-Opening, Documented FREE REPORT Proves ...

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Creator of Official U.S. Navy SEAL Combat System Releases Brutal New Gun & Knife Sections Of His Instructor Qualification Fighting Series

Can you disarm a man holding a knife to your throat? What if a car-jacker sticks a gun through your window — and your wife, girlfriend, or child is sitting beside you?

In an often brutal yet professionally direct approach, Jerry Peterson's new video series shows you how to destroy these attackers, while taking you to the ultimate level of fighting.

The culmination of a 2-year transformation from actual SCARS military archive techniques, his **Instructor Qualification Series** offers you the opportunity to learn what until now was exclusively taught to military Special Operations forces (SEALS, Rangers, Green Berets, etc.).

It's been called "the most brutally effective fighting system ever seen."

Before explaining more about this system, here's how Jerry Peterson, the creator of this system, became the first — and only — civilian ever to standardize, license and teach a hand-to-weapon fighting system to the United States military.

In 1989, Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC), the group which controls all SEAL activity, was looking for ways to standardize hand-to-weapon combat techniques. After an exhaustive review, they had **rejected every single martial art form in the world.**

They found each completely unworkable in combat-oriented fighting situations where SEALS were in full gear, carrying 100# packs, and often knee-deep in water.

Amazing Scientific System

Then a SEAL NSWC officer (with black belts in 3 martial arts) saw Jerry Peterson's *scientific* fighting system. What he stumbled on wasn't martial arts. In fact it was unlike anything he'd ever seen before.

The SEAL officer watched in disbelief as a class of inexperienced students threw real punches for virtually 1 full hour, **never repeating the same sequences.** In one session he witnessed more fighting than most martial arts students see in a year.

Later, two top brass at NSWC saw the officer demonstrating moves he'd learned. But intrigue turned to doubt when they learned the originator was an ex-Army enlisted man.

Still they met with Jerry, as much out of admiration for his Vietnam record as anything (he spent 15 months as lead point for Charlie Company, the 173rd Airborne — one of the most decorated units of the war). As Vietnam vets, the SEAL officers figured Jerry at least would understand their needs.

Easily Defeats Decorated SEAL

But they were totally unprepared for what happened. To prove his system, Jerry Peterson and a highly-decorated SEAL Officer (and at 240, 100 pounds heavier than Jerry) went toe-to-toe — but at half speed. To the Officer's amazement he was **instantly** disabled and dropped to his knees.

Only then did he realize — had he not been talked out of going full speed by others who knew the awesome power of Jerry Peterson's system, his false confidence in his martial arts training and in his sheer size advantage would have left him with an arm broken as easily as a match stick!

In 5 short minutes these SEAL officers — men who had seen everything in the way of brutal fighting, and who had virtually unlimited budgets to develop the SEALS into the world's best — were blown away by Jerry Peterson's *Autokinematic™* fighting system.

Officially Required SEAL Training

Following a pilot program at Command headquarters all SEALS began receiving this training. Still, hardheaded, cocky, non-believing SEALS, many with extensive martial arts backgrounds, constantly tested Jerry:

- ❑ SEALS are the most proficient combat swimmers in the world. Yet 40-year-old Jerry (who wasn't a particularly good swimmer) "drowned" SEAL after SEAL in training. His scientific principles apply on any terrain.
- ❑ SEALS are trained to run 20 miles in soft sand. But Jerry (who really wasn't in great shape) had them gasping just 5 minutes into his first workouts while he participated effortlessly. He used breathing techniques others had never seen (techniques he can teach you in minutes).
- ❑ In Europe Jerry challenged a deployed SEAL platoon to pin him against a wall. All thought it a joke. Yet he escaped — from the grasp of 14 of the most proficient fighting men in the world (then showed it was no trick — simply physics, and easily learned).

Today all SEALS use these scientific techniques and many more. Since 1989, Navy SEALS go through a minimum of 40 and up to 600 rigorous hours of Jerry Peterson's training prior to deployment (often in intense, 24-hour a day sessions).

Top Government Officials Amazed

His system was demonstrated to Navy Admirals, a 4-Star General, and Congressional leaders — as well as the Secretary of the Navy and the U.S. Secretary of Defense!

Jerry was even called in prior to Desert Storm to brief the military on using *Neural Offensive Linguistics™* (a cornerstone of his system, it defines a mind set which eliminates all defensive thinking, allowing anyone, even you, to make instantaneously correct decisions in the midst of any hostile environment).

Devastating Power Gives You An Unfair Advantage

In his *HCS* video course Jerry Peterson introduced you to his revolutionary system.

Now, with the publication of ***Jerry Peterson's SCAR-HCS Hand-To-Weapon*** fighting system, Jerry leads you into the never-before-seen world of brutal, no-holds-barred gun, knife and club fighting — material you've **never** seen (unless you were in elite Special Operation forces).

You'll learn the same hand-to-weapon techniques, the same mental approaches, the same 'kill' sets Jerry developed for over 200 SEAL SCARS instructors. (These SCARS instructors now teach this system to all branches of the military Spec Op forces — Army, Navy and Air Force).

You'll know how to defeat, seriously disable and, when necessary, kill anyone threatening your life or the life of a loved one or friend!

Guaranteed To Work In Your Most Nightmarish Hostile Situation

Everything in his system was proven in the most intense war lab of the past 30 years — Vietnam!

Official SEAL SCARS-CFC Creator Jerry Peterson

But this isn't a course to impress friends at your Karate studio. The Instructor Qualification Series is Jerry Peterson's complete professional fighting system.

And professional fighting has but one objective: to defeat an attacker incredibly fast. In 29 years Jerry's longest fight lasted but 5 seconds!

This system is only for those who need a powerful yet amazingly simple system (simple because it's based on quickly-mastered scientific principles **not** a difficult art form) to protect them in life-threatening situations.

No Navy SEAL has ever lost in hand-to-hand combat when correctly applying Jerry's system! And they never will (nor will you) because ... his system is undefeatable!

This Totally Integrated System Enables You To Destroy Any Attacker — With Absolutely No Fear Or Hesitation!

Cheap imitators advertise fighter after fighter — a hodgepodge of unrelated, nonscientific moves. Now they even lie, hoping to con you into believing SEALS would lose to these guys. But they know. No one beats a Peterson-trained SEAL.

These 'wanna-bes' teach one move if an attacker swings a fist at you, another if he's got a knife.

But Jerry Peterson's scientific system teaches you why you MUST use the exact same techniques — **with a weapon or without!** What everyone else teaches is wrong. Just ask the SEALS!

The imitators claim they've trained Navy SEALS. But Jerry Peterson is the sole creator of the official hand-to-hand and hand-to-weapon combat fighting system used by the SEALS today.

He's the only civilian with a Naval Special Warfare course number (*SCARS-CFC#* K-431-0096) plus a new $2.5 million military facility predicated solely on his SCARS training.

The Navy SEAL 'wanna-be' trainers? They've got nothing — no official status, no course number.

Free Special Report Reveals GUN And KNIFE Fighting Secrets

Jerry Peterson's system is brutal. It has to be. Yet it's surprisingly easy to learn. It requires NO athletic ability, NO speed, NO conditioning.

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Jerry has created a **Free special report** revealing the amazing details about his *scientific* weapons fighting system — the system which has made the Navy SEALS an undefeatable fighting force.

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24-hours for a Free recorded message to get your Free report. International, call 602-921-8533.

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FLAK

SF CHANGES FOR BETTER?

Dilute and conquer — yes, it is happening here at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. My buddies and I see it all the time.

Out at Phase I [of Special Forces Qualification Course], the Ranger tabs strongly favor the Ranger-tabbed students and keep out the students that don't have the Ranger "mentality."

Now, Rangers are *great* at what they do. But leave that narrow, Ranger-battalion mindset behind if you come over here to Special Forces. And leave those damned "high and tight" haircuts, too!

It is well known that SF is being controlled and used by the wrong (non-SF tabbed) people. Why don't people speak up? Well, when SF got its own branch, it opened the floodgates for ticket-punching officers. So there you have it.

Here at John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center, we have Command Sgt. Major Bone and CSM Rambo who shafted Sgt. 1st Class Rasor ["Why Is Clinton Afraid Of The Green Berets?", June '96 *SOF*]. ... SF sure ain't what it used to be.

Name Withheld By Request

James Pate is incorrect in his description of the "removal" of "Bronze Bruce" [in "Why Is Clinton Afraid Of The Green Berets?"].

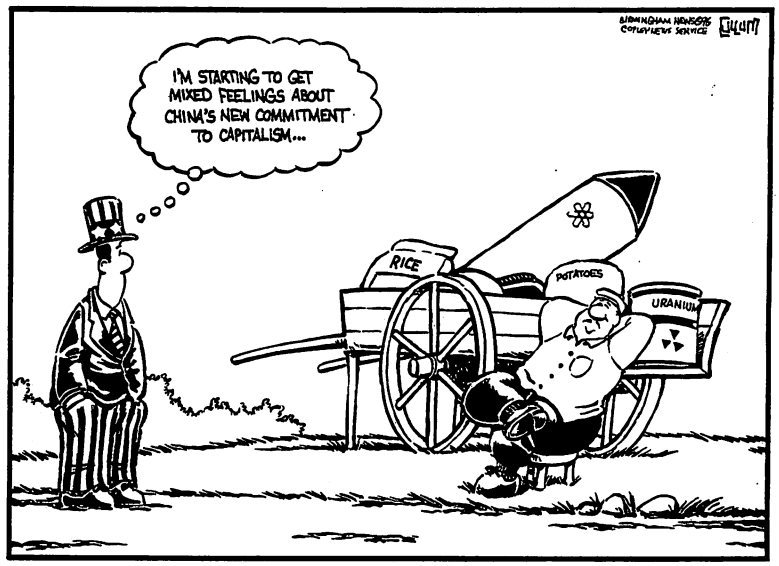
The statue was moved due to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command [USASOC] — which SF falls under — moving to its new headquarters complex. Had Bruce been left at his original site all ties to Special Forces would have been lost given the 82nd Airborne's assumption of the old USASOC area. ...

The statue now sits — intact — in the USASOC Memorial Plaza. It faces the Vietnam Memorial Wall ... where the original plaques were moved to, cleaned and placed. ... This wall sits beneath the American flag which Bruce faces as he stands watch over the plaza and wall. ...

On 11 November the plaza will be complete when those SF soldiers who have died in the service of the country are memorialized with ... an additional wall. This monument will reflect individual plaques for those SF soldiers killed in action or training missions in those conflicts since the Vietnam War.

When the plaza was first dedicated, well over 95% of those who had opposed the move of Bruce from the old site personally congratulated General Scott for what clearly is a fitting tribute to all SF soldiers past, present, and future. This includes many of those from the Special Forces Association, of which I am a Decade member. ...

Greg Walker
Bend, Oregon



Mr. Walker misses a key point — if not the entire thrust — of my article. Bronze Bruce, like all statues, is merely a symbol. *This one was erected to honor the Army Special Forces-qualified men who died in Vietnam. Period.*

The statue's singular dedication to those brave Green Berets, like Army SF itself, is being diminished by expropriation by others — notably civil affairs, psychological operations, and conventional light-infantry Rangers — who hitchhike on this dearly won reputation. This has internally co-opted the original reason for creating Special Forces. The resulting diminution of unconventional war-fighting skills in favor of a touchy-feely role as armed social workers is a slap in the face of every real *Green Beret who passed the* old *Q-course.*

I re-checked the facts pertaining to the removal of Bruce to its new location. It was the statue's base — not the statue itself — that was damaged. On that point, I stand corrected. As to Mr. Walker's claim that "well over 95% of those who had opposed the move ... personally congratulated Gen. Scott," this is hyperbole stated as fact.

It strains belief that: Mr. Walker compiled a list of every person, known and unknown, who opposed the statue's move; polled each individual as to his opinion about the move; and, almost all of them attended the dedication and made their feelings known to Lt. Gen. Scott.

Clinton-era political correctness has eroded troop morale. Mr. Walker's praise of USASOC to the contrary, able and skilled Green Berets are getting out in record numbers. The traditional autonomy of SF non-coms has been gutted in favor of fawning officers who get their tickets punched while spending little time on an A-team. These same officers use their missions and their men as stepping stones — and would slide a Randall knife deep in the back of a noble warrior to further their own sorry service. — *J.L.P.*

ON THE *ZONA ROSA* ATTACK

Your recent article on Romeo Gilberto Osorio and his part in the "Zona Rosa massacre" in El Salvador ["I Pledge Insurgence...", May '96 *SOF*] stirred long-dormant memories of what can only be described as an act of despicable violence and incredible cowardice — a cowardice representative of the very soul of the Marxist insurgency that wreaked misery in that country during the '80s.

I was in that country the night they [*FMLN* gunmen] massacred the U.S. Marines and others. I watched on the morning after as they washed away the blood. ... I endured the accounts in the local media of the punks who did the shooting, laughing about what they had done: the "jubilation" as later described by Osorio. Two of those slaughtered were acquaintances of mine. ...

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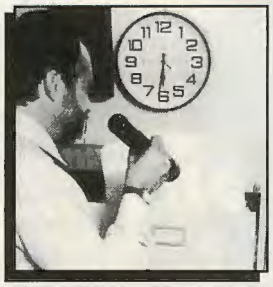

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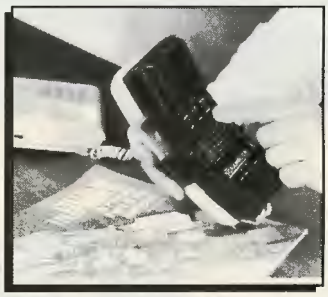

The Scrambler

Telephone Scramblers
Medium level for single line telephones. **$499.** per pair (2 units) (ship $15.) Cellular Scramblers, fits Motorola flip phones. **$695.** each (minimum of two required) The Scrambler fits all types of telephones. (medium security). **$298.** each (ship $20.)

High Level Telephone & Fax Encryptors *$2,900. each*

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Telephone Voice Changer Plugs into single telephone Only. **$69.** (ship $5.)

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Call Screener Device (not caller I.D.)Caller enters code before telephone will ring. Stops late night and nuisance calls.**$95.** (ship $7.)

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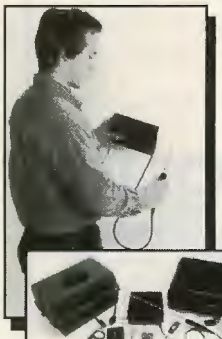

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Everything you need to "sweep" your home, includes video on taps & bugs **$1,495.** (ship/insur. $35.)

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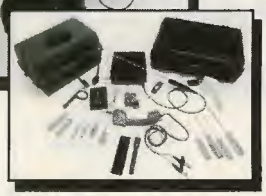
For professionally sweeping homes & small business. Get started offering these services. Make $300-500 a day. **$2,945.** (ship $45.)



New! Automatic-computerized bug/transmitter/carrier/current/laser Detector OSCAR system **$12,500.** (ship/insur. $65.)

Audio Jammer.
Produces LOUD random generated noise to jam microphones to protect your room conversations. **$129.** (ship $7.)

Body Wire Detector.
Device silently warns you if someone is wearing a body wire or a transmitter (bug) is in a room. Cigarette pack size, warns only you. **$695.** (ship/insur. $15.)

Telephone Number Decoders

Micro Max (2nd generation), displays numbers dialed when playing back a recording of a telephone conversation. **$169.** (ship $7.)

Touch Tone Decoder with printer (touch tone & pulse) attaches anywhere along the telephone line (alligator clips included) prints telephone number called, time, length of call, etc. **$299.** (ship $20.)

Telephone Room Monitor

Call from any telephone in the world and listen into your home or business. Requires separate "secret" telephone number. Alligator clips enable you to attach the "ear" to the telephone line in the room you want to monitor. Match box size. **$399.** (ship/insur. $10.)

Body Wire - Room Monitor *Transmitter & Receiver Set*

Small pencil-eraser size microphone picks up even whispers 10 feet away, the cigarette pack size, 9 volt battery powered transmitter then sends the clean, clear voice signal to the Crystal controlled matching receiver up to 1,000 feet away!! Set includes transmitter and receiver with interface for a recorder. Not a Kit! In use by P.I.'s and Law Enforcement. FCC type approved. EP-151 only **$299.** (ship $15.)

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Shotgun News 50th Anniversary

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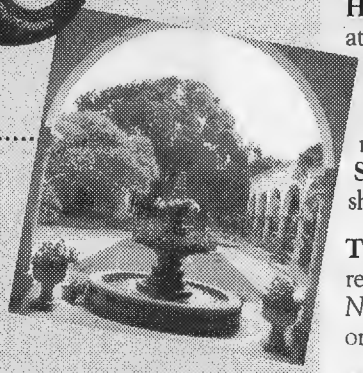

trip prize

Luxury Vacation in Mexico or Dove Hunting Trip in Mexico

monthly prizes

First and Second Place Winners each month

Monthly prizes include rifles, shotguns, handguns, or accessory kits.

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GRAND PRIZE—1997 Jeep Wrangler or **$15,000 cash.**

TRIP PRIZE—Five-day, Four-night Luxury Vacation for up to four people in a restored seventeenth century Hacienda at Alamos, Sonora, Mexico or **Five-day, Four-night Dove Hunting Trip** for up to four people at one of Mexico's top hunting lodges in Navajoa, Sonora.

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SHOTGUN NEWS SWEEPSTAKES OFFICIAL RULES—NO PURCHASE OR SUBSCRIPTION NECESSARY

1. TO ENTER: Each time you begin or renew a subscription to Shotgun News during the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November or December 1996 or January 1997, you will be automatically entered into a drawing for that month's prize (and subsequent monthly prize drawings) and for the Grand Prize/Trip Prize drawing to be conducted at the close of the program. (Note: If you begin or renew a subscription to Shotgun News between 2/1/97 and 2/4/97 inclusive, you will be eligible for the Grand Prize/Trip Prize only.)

2. TO ENTER WITHOUT PURCHASE OR SUBSCRIPTION: On an Official Entry Form only, available by mail as indicated in Rule 2A, hand print your name, address, (including zip code), daytime and evening telephone numbers. Residents of the State of Washington only, need not affix postage to return envelopes.

2A. For each Official Entry Form you wish to be sent by mail, send a separate, self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to: SHOTGUN NEWS ENTRY FORM REQUEST, P.O. Box 5081, Blair, NE 68009. Requests must be received by 2/11/97. Limit one request per envelope. Completed entry forms must be received at the address listed on the entry form by the last day of each month indicated in Rule 1 to be eligible for that month's prize drawing (and subsequent monthly prize drawings) and/or by 3/11/97 to be eligible for the Grand Prize/Trip Prize drawings.

3. RANDOM DRAWING: Monthly winners will be selected in a random drawing on or about the 20th day of the month following the month of drawing eligibility from among all eligible entries received by D.L. Blair, Inc., an independent judging organization whose decisions are final on all matters related to this program. Grand Prize and Trip Prize winners will be selected in a random drawing conducted on or about 3/12/97 from among all eligible entries received throughout the duration of this program. Winners will be notified by mail. Odds of winning will depend upon the total number of all eligible entries received in a given month for monthly prizes and/or over the course of the entire promotion for the Grand Prize and Trip Prize.

4. PRIZE & APPROXIMATE RETAIL VALUE: (1) Grand Prize consisting of a Shotgun News model new Jeep Wrangler with optional soft-top & doors, AM-FM radio and 5-speed transmission, ($15,000) or $15,000 cash; (1) Trip Prize — A 5-day, 4-night deluxe hunting expedition (White Wing & Morning Dove) in Mexico for four, including air transportation (from major U.S. city), lodging at the "Hacienda Cazadores", three meals per day, guide and transportation to hunting areas. (Shells, licenses, gun permits, guns, etc. not included) ($6,000) OR a 5-day, 4-night Mexican vacation for four in a restored 300-year-old Hacienda, includes air transportation (from major U.S. city), two meals per day, Fiesta, sightseeing and Jeep tours ($5,000). Monthly Prizes: March: (1) 1st Prize — Ishapore Enfield 2 A Rifle plus a Webly & Scott Brass Flare Pistol ($279.90); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); April, (1) 1st Prize — a Browning Hunter Gold, 12 gauge self-loading shotgun ($700); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); May, (1) 1st Prize — Schofield Revolver ($795); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); June: (1) 1st Prize — Model .308 Guardia Civil Spanish Mauser, Caliber .308 Win, complete with sling and muzzle cover in Special Select Condition, plus a Model 98/29 Persian Mauser Caliber 7.92 mm (8 mm Mauser) complete with bayonet & leather sling in Special Select Condition ($459.90); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); July: (1) 1st Prize — a 1911 A-1 Springfield .45 Caliber ($459); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); August: (1) 1st Prize — Ishapore Enfield 2A Rifle plus a Model 98K Mauser WWII carbine Caliber 7.92 (8 mm Mauser) with Winter Trigger guard in Special Select Condition ($399.90); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); September: (1) 1st Prize — a Browning Hunter Gold, 12 gauge self-loading shotgun ($700); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); October: (1) 1st Prize — a 1911 A-1 Springfield .45 Caliber ($459); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); November: (1) 1st Prize — a Browning Hunter Gold, 12 gauge self-loading shotgun ($700); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98); December: (1) 1st Prize — Parker Knife Collection, Kentucky Derby set of 12 knives, engraved blades each with a different Derby winner, bone handles, framed under glass ($450); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Vise Ultimate Pack ($127.98). January 1997: (1) 1st Prize — a Classic Buffalo Hunters' Sharps Rifle in 45/70 caliber with a 28" heavy octagonal barrel with tang sights recreated by Navy Arms Company, Inc. ($875); (1) 2nd Prize — Coach Gun, side-by-side, 12 gauge Stoeger IGA ($400).

5. GENERAL RULES: Open only to U.S. residents who, as of February 28, 1996, are 21 years or older. Employees of Snell Publishing Co., Inc., Shotgun News, their affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies and the immediate family members and/or those living in the same household of each are not eligible. Void where prohibited by law. Winner may make no substitution or transfer of prize. All federal, state and local taxes, insurance, licensing, registration and title fees are the sole responsibility of the winner. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Potential winners must execute any required Affidavit of Eligibility/Release of Liability/Prize Acceptance Form within 15 days of attempted notification. Noncompliance within this time period may result in disqualification and an alternate may be selected. Return of any prize notification as undeliverable will result in disqualification and an alternate will be selected. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute prize of equal for greater value. Limit one prize per household (with exception of Grand Prize and Trip Prize). Acceptance of prize constitutes permission to the sponsor and its agencies to use winner's name and/or likeness for purposes of advertising and trade without further compensation, unless prohibited by law. (Note: If hunt expedition is selected by Trip Prize winner, hunt trip must be taken during November 1997. If vacation is selected by trip prize winner it must be taken in November 1997 or between January 2, 1998 and March 31, 1998. Trip Prize must be taken on dates specified by sponsor. Travel blackout dates will apply.) All traveling companions must be 21 years of age or older and will be required to execute a release of liability prior to departure. No mechanically reproduced entries permitted. All firearms will be transferred to the respective winners through federally licensed firearms dealers. All winners must be eligible for firearm's possession under all federal and respective state laws. In the event the sponsor is prohibited from awarding prize to winner as a matter of federal/state/local law or for any reason whatsoever (e.g. felony conviction, licensing requirements, etc.) prize will be awarded to an alternate winner. Not responsible for lost, late, postage due, illegible, damaged or misdirected mail/entries or entries not forwarded to prize headquarters in time for the random drawings. By participating in this promotion, entrants agree to be bound by the Official Rules and the decisions of the judges.

6. For the names of the winners, available after May 31, 1997, send a separate, stamped, self-addressed (#10) envelope to: Shotgun News Winners, P.O. Box 5082, Blair, NE 68009.

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Mr. Osorio is one more example of the megalomaniacs who traveled to Central America in those years to fan the flames of their own personal delusions, fueled by the ignorant *campesinos* sent to their deaths by *commandantes*, the *Internacionalistas* far from the fray. When their self-serving game was over, they retreated to the safety of their own homelands, where the need to spread their revolution was obviously less acute.

To the leftist elite in this country and elsewhere, Osorio may be a hero. To me, he is just another venal coward. ...

Christopher E. Williamson
Sunrise, Florida

I've been involved with the U.S. military since 1989 and *SOF* has been there all the way to entertain me, from "the Storm" to Bosnia. ...

The reason I'm writing is because ... I'm outraged by the situation with Osorio. It's upsetting to see that this man, who openly admitted on "60 Minutes" to being involved with the killing of six Americans in El Salvador, is still free. ... Finally, as an Alabaman, I respect the efforts of Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) and his constituents for their efforts against Osorio.

Keith Manley
USS George Washington

OUR LAST MIAS

Will Cadence's article ["*Mayaguez:* Forgotten Battle," May *SOF*] has got to be the saddest story I've read in a long time. It just proves that no matter what you're planning, if ya ain't got good intel, you're playing Russian Roulette.

It really burns me every time I hear someone who doesn't have to put some skin in the game tell me, "Oh, sure, no problem; it's good data."

God bless the courageous souls who went.

Fred Schwenken
via E-mail

Sorry I took so long to respond to Will Cadence's sidebar [in "*Mayaguez:* Forgotten Battle"] about DNA analysis. It is good, right up to the last paragraph where it suggests that the U.S. Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii is one of the few facilities in the world that has PCR [polymerase chain reaction] analysis capability.

Actually, CILHI has *access* to this capability in the same way as the rest of the Department of Defense: by mailing it to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, part of the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C.

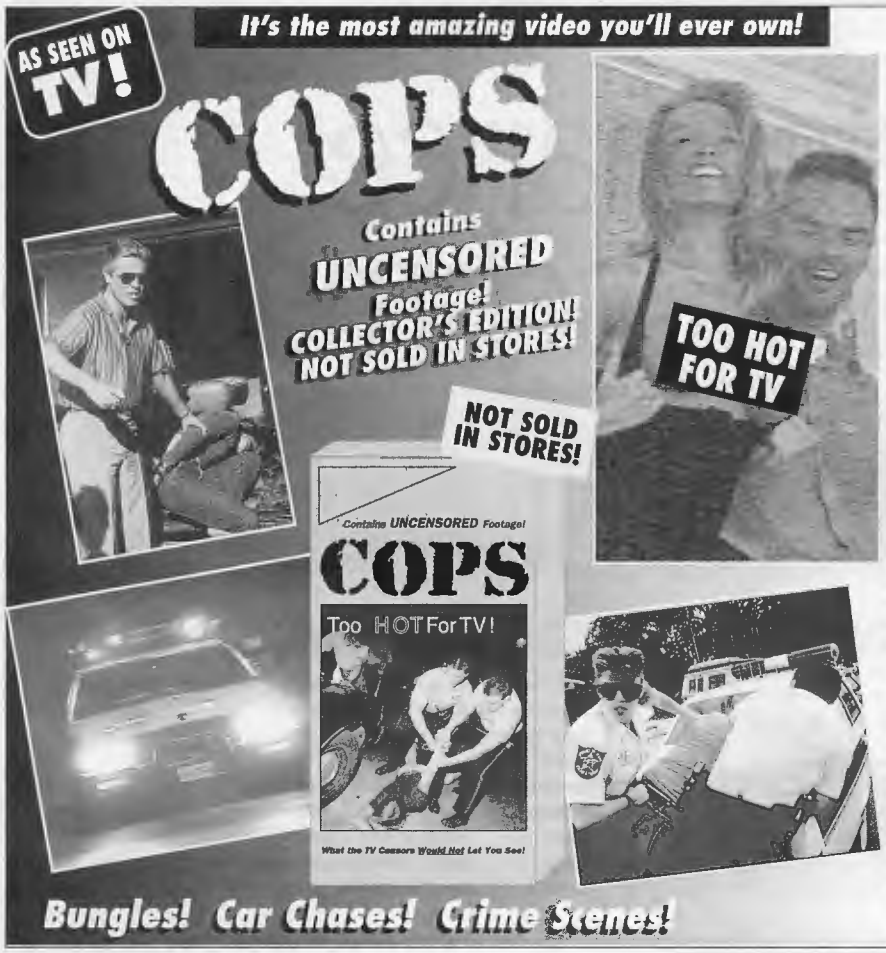
Lt. Col. David W. Hause
U.S. Army Medical Corps

Will Cadence's article on the *Mayaguez* made me pause and reflect upon my life. ... Growing up in an affluent, liberal household in Los Angeles, I was like most of my peers: opposed to America's involvement in Southeast Asia. We chanted, "Hell no, I won't go!", and we ditched school to join peace marches. ... Liberal home, liberal neighborhood, liberal school and liberal friends — you figure it out.

Then in my senior year of high school, the *Mayaguez* was seized. President Ford sent in the Marines. ... I had been led to believe that the communists were fighting a war *against* oppression and Western aggression; why would they attack a merchant vessel in international waters? I realized that I had been fed crap all of these years. That month, because of the *Mayaguez*, I joined the Navy....

Who were those three Marine heroes who were left behind on Koh Tang island? Have their actions and sacrifice ever been recognized by their country? I owe them so much.

Dave Hood
North Bend, Wash.



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NON-PC TALK FROM BOSNIA

I must ask for anonymity. I don't want less-experienced soldiers to one day lack a confident, competent NCO while truly defending American interests because I once chose to vocalize my view of this "white elephant" we've been shuffled off to. ...

I cannot expound on details within my unit's sector, but I will say ... that northern Bosnia is not nearly so fertile a field for peace as the political/media machine back home would have Mom and Dad and Mrs. PFC Joe Snuffy believe. ...

The *Wall Street Journal* [last winter] quoted Brigade Commander Col. Gregory Fontenot as saying that this mission — as defined by the bureaucracy — cannot be accomplished with the given time frame of one year. ... I can't accept that his statement was worthy of the "hush-hush" official reprimand he received. ...

It breaks my heart that we have to be committed to such inevitably costly folly in order to justify our existence, especially after so many years of preparation for laying ourselves as speed bumps before the Soviets at the Fulda Gap [Germany]. Europe saw fit to pressure the weakest part of our government (namely "Three Dollar" Bill) into committing America to Bosnia so that Europe won't have to iron out a major immigration problem while it fine-tunes its commerce union. ...

I think our nation has been suckered. But that's been the trend since the '92 presidential election anyway, in my humble opinion. ...

U.S. Soldier
Bosnia

In June Defense Secretary Perry said U.S. troops might *remain into 1997 if NATO decides its mission is incomplete by December. The White House waffled that Perry "was just speculating." (In the words of Gomer Pyle, "Surprise, surprise, surprise.")*

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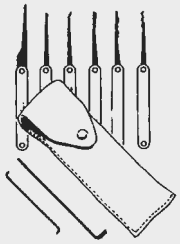

- Shirt Pocket Size.
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- Has 8 Picks, Tension Wrenchs and Broken Key Extractor.
- All Picks with Metal Handles.
- Copy of Lockpicking Simplified.

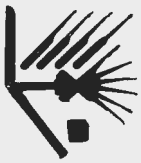
PXP 8 **$24.95**

PXP 10

- Shirt Pocket Size.
- Top Grain Cowhide Leather.
- Has 13 Picks, Tension Wrenchs and Broken Key Extractor.
- All Picks with Metal Handles.
- Copy of Lockpicking Simplified.

PXP 10 **$34.95**

PIX-EZ All-In-One Pick-Set



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WKS PICKS

Made of the finest blue tempered spring steel this 5 piece padlock pick-set is a must in every locksmiths' tool box. This set will pick open most every warded padlock made today. **$9.95**

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This handy new pick set is the most popular set among professional locksmiths today. This kit consists of 12 different tools housed in a handsome black leather case designed for a shirt pocket. Included in the price, you receive a **5 piece warded key set and a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." 17 piece set total.**

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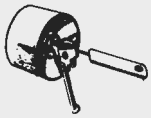
A. Your Choice: (1) Center (2) Offset left (3) Offset right; B. "Segal" 8 pin tubular; C. 5-pin Tubular; D. 6-pin Tubular; E. 8-Pin Ace.

SESAMEE DECODER

This tool was designed to decode the exact combination of a sesamee padlock without damaging the lock. Detailed instruction included.

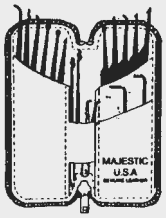
$17.95

SCHLAGE WAFER



The most fantastic tool you will ever use. This set consists of two base keys and pick. Complete instructions included.

$29.95



MD16

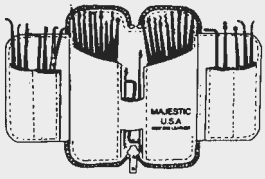
Shirt Pocket Size, Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 16 Picks, Tension Wrenchs and Broken Key Extractor.

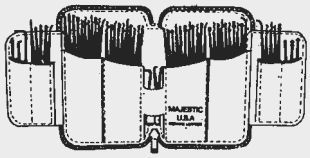
$59.95

MD32

Hip Pocket Size, Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 32 picks, Tension Wrenchs, Broken Key Extractor.

$69.95





MD60

Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 60 picks, Tension Wrenchs, Broken Key Extractor and Warded Master Keys.

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"HEZ" HUNTERS

Ringside at "Grapes of Wrath"

Text & Photos by Mark H. Milstein

A volley of 155mm artillery shells sailed over our heads, past the Israeli-declared security zone and into a sector of southern Lebanon assigned to the United Nations' Fijian peacekeepers. A few of those shells might have landed on Lebanese refugees at a U.N. camp.

Reports soon began trickling in of the carnage some 14 kilometers to the north, in Qana.

I and the Middle East correspondent for a major British newspaper wanted into Lebanon. But an Israeli Defense Force (IDF) major at this border post ordered two of his soldiers to secure a padlock on a crossing gate, preventing us from going any farther.

"What, you're going to give them all CPR?" the officer sneered, knowing we wanted to get to Qana. "I don't care if you're journalists. This border is closed as of now. So get moving."

The world soon would condemn the Qana shelling. A controversial U.N. report

AP/Wide World

Hezbollah **team in southern Lebanon guards 122mm** ***Katyusha*** **artillery rocket aimed at northern Israel. With high-explosive/fragmentation warhead, rocket weighs about 100 pounds; collapsible tripod and reusable launch tube make system portable in civilian trucks. Maximum range is 11 miles; rocket in flight is fin- and spin-stabilized. Katyushas are flown on Iranian air-force transports to Damascus, Syria, then driven to Hezbollah in northern Lebanon.**

would say it probably was no accident, fueling speculation the IDF tried to kill *Hezbollah* gunners hiding at the U.N. camp with air bursts of proximity-fuzed shells. Israel would claim the shelling covered a retreat by a covert, IDF unit operating in the area; a small number of shells accidentally overshot the intended target: Arab mortars south of the U.N. camp.

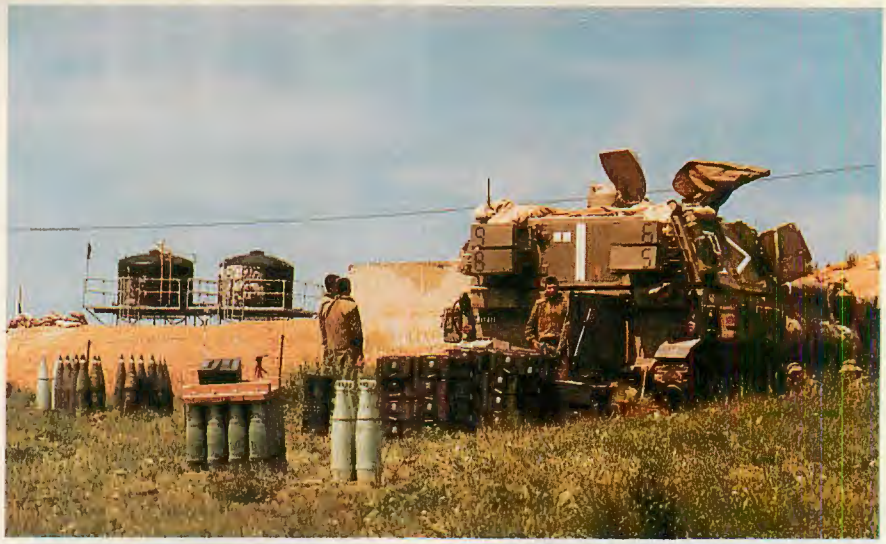
What is undisputed, though, is that 102 Lebanese died on 18 April at Qana.

The "Grapes Of Wrath"

With no prospect of getting over the border any time soon, we headed back to Metulla. The northern-most community in Israel, it now was headquarters of the IDF's media-relations machine during "Operation Grapes of Wrath": the mission to rid southern Lebanon of Hezbollah.

The neat, hilltop village was crawling with representatives of the world's news media. Metulla also enjoyed the distinction of hosting an IDF self-propelled howitzer battery and sitting at the northern end of "*Katyusha* Alley," the 20- by 20-kilometer landing zone for Hezbollah's rocket attacks on northern Israel.

But on the way to Metulla we stopped at Qiryat Shemona. This town deserved the "Ground Zero Award" for being the primary target of nearly every Arab rocket attack in Israel's short history.



Israeli army self-propelled artillery unit in northern Israel stands ready to fire 155mm shells at Hezbollah positions during April's "Operation Grapes Of Wrath."

Excited by CNN video showing what appeared to be round-the-clock rocket barrages, we expected the residents of Qiryat Shemona to be a terrified mob in a town resembling Grozny, Chechnya, under the heels of the Russian army or Sarajevo in the throws of a Serbian siege.

Instead, we found a nearly empty, sun-baked city of East European-style block-house apartments still occupied by a few hundred diehards (when they weren't in bomb shelters); a squad of religious Jews armed to the teeth on an around-the-clock street patrol; and about 1,000 IDF soldiers. Most of the soldiers were lounging around a French-built hotel and barracks complex or arguing over the use of four pay phones.

The British reporter and I didn't quite know how to deal with the polite, highly disciplined IDF troops.

"How about joining us for a cappuccino?" asked Corporal Rachel Schaeffer, an attractive IDF reservist on temporary duty there. "If you're interested, we can show you how we put on cultural programs for children living in the [bomb] shelters."

No thank you, we responded. I asked about visiting a front-line gun scrape or going on patrol in the security zone.

"Why would you want to do that?" the uniformed beauty replied with a straight face. "That could be dangerous, and your safety is our concern. Maybe you should speak with an IDF press spokesman."

Corporal Schaeffer's cellular telephone began ringing. That was our cue to leave the hotel. Back on the street, we didn't have to wait long for some action.

An IDF medic ran by, saying Qiryat Shemona was expected to receive Katyusha strikes any moment.

Two loud *thumps* echoed off the mountains hugging the west side of the city. Dust plumes rose from between the pine trees. Then a third — louder — explosion rattled the hotel's windows. An apartment house had been hit.

Radios crackled with shouts in Hebrew. We raced toward the smoke rising from a small, two-story apartment house on the city's southwest side. We'd never witnessed the results of a Katyusha strike. The Brit and I, having been conditioned by the nearly hysterical reports from CNN and the IDF press office on the power of this terror weapon, expected a scene reminiscent of the V-2 attacks on London. It wasn't.

AP/Wide World

Israeli children in Qiryat Shemona examine hole in roof of day-care center following 25 April strike by Katyusha rocket.

Convoy of flatbed trucks delivers Israeli army *Merkava* Mk 3 tanks, with 120mm smoothbore guns, to northern border town during Operation Grapes Of Wrath.

About 20 IDF soldiers, none with a magazine in his M16A2 rifle, stood directing traffic and controlling the small crowd of civilians that came to see what happened. A group of local civil defense, firemen and police was already battling the smoky blaze coming from the apartment.

We could just hear the response by IDF howitzers in a battery north of town. *Thump, thump, thump* — three 155mm shells for three measly rockets. Two IDF helicopters arrived on station and hovered over Qiryat Shemona.

A basketball-sized hole in the apartment's roof showed where the Katyusha landed. The explosion shredded a living room full of furniture. A 122mm weapon of terror, yes; a weapon constituting a military threat to Israel — no.

An English-speaking police official told us that nobody was home when the Katyusha landed. Now it was up to the insurance-claims people to sort out the rest.

Smart Bombs And "Spin Control"

A Katyusha lands in Israel. Some IDF computer geek manning a U.S.-built, radar-control system coordinates a response. Within minutes Israeli howitzers or F-16 jets return fire. No ground troops, no messy face-to-face confrontations; just hour after hour of smart-bomb video showing the effectiveness of U.S.-made ordnance on Hezbollah positions.

The IDF, it seemed, decided to make Grapes Of Wrath a test run for its newest media spin-control techniques — whether the international press liked it or not.

"It's not like there're Katyushas landing every minute or even every hour," I remarked to the IDF spokesman, Colonel Raanon Gissen. "If you watch CNN or Israeli television you'd believe this was some sort of major conflict. Christ, I've been here two days and have only heard six Katyusha strikes in 48 hours. But since that's the case, and most of the fire is outgoing, this operation should be wrapped up in another day or so. Right?"

Gissen, a veteran of reporters' interrogations, wasn't going to be snared by my questions. He calmly went into his well-practiced script of *you've got to see this mission from our point of view.*

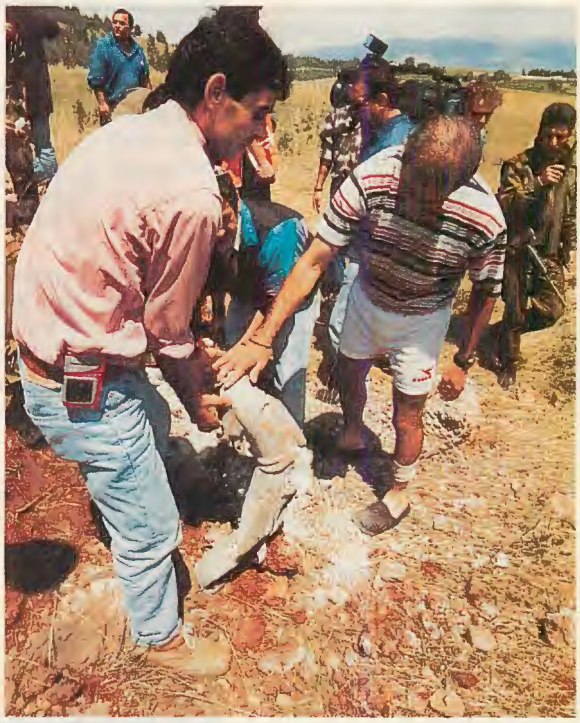
"The operation drags on like this because Israel wants to affect their [Hezbollah's] head," he said. "Not literally; we don't want to kill them. We want to achieve mental and military results. We want them to stop. To know that for every move, we will counter, and they will pay full price."

Gissen continued: "Hezbollah always says they want to win the hearts and minds of the southern Lebanese, but they do so on the backs of these same people. We're sorry about the loss of life, but remember we don't fire directly into villages, we fire on their edges."

I was too stunned to respond. I thanked the colonel and retreated to my hotel room. On the television was another CNN "live" report making it look as if all of northern Israel was under attack when, of course, it wasn't.

I wondered: Was this operation ultimately a political ploy by the Peres government — approaching a close-run, national election — to prove it wasn't soft on terrorism following a series of suicide bombings in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem?

Israeli Minister of Health Efhraim Snneh answers reporters' questions in Metulla under watchful eye of government bodyguard armed with 5.56x45mm CAR-15 with scope and (concealed) Glock semiautomatic pistol.



During April's cross-border bombardments, Israeli artillerymen reportedly fired at least 18,000 shells while Hezbollah gunners launched an estimated 700 Katyushas. This rocket exploded harmlessly outside village in northern Israel.

With Israeli fighter jets and unmanned reconnaissance drones buzzing Metulla every few minutes, making it impossible to think straight, I decided to return to the IDF press center to see what was scheduled today for journalists.

"You're lucky," an IDF conscript at the center said. "The minister of health is coming in two hours to give a news conference at the border, about 500 meters from here. Meet the IDF press representative at the Good Fence entrance."

Feigning interest, I asked whether the minister was going into southern Lebanon to inspect the sanitary conditions of Hezbollah toilets or soup kitchens? The response was a quick and curt no. (After being lured into press-pooling with two dozen Israeli journalists the day before to watch the arrival of IDF tanks on flatbeds, anything was possible.)

Al.J. Venter

South Lebanon Army troops at security-zone fort scan valley below following random small-arms fire.

Cool Shades, Hot Guns

Among the world's health ministers, Israeli Minister of Health Efhraim Snneh must have absolutely the *best* security detail. Arriving at the Lebanese border in an armored car, complete with an observing helicopter gunship, Snneh didn't take a single step around the press without two security agents, each armed with a 5.56x45mm CAR-15 carbine, great-looking sunglasses and a Glock pistol.

His speech, thankfully, was short and to the point.

"Operation Grapes Of Wrath will continue for as long as it takes for Hezbollah to stop its attacks on Israel," Snneh summarized for us.

Stuffed with great quotes, sharp video and finger sandwiches supplied by the IDF, the bulk of the press corps left the conference satisfied and ready to report on Grapes Of Wrath. But I was tired of being spoon-fed canned speeches and having my eardrums rattled by IDF fighters, and decided to pay a visit to the gun scrape behind my hotel.

"This shell is for Sheik Misrala," said Aton, a private in the "Dragon" artillery unit, pointing to the 155mm round being prepped for an air burst over the suspected headquarters of some lesser Hezbollah chieftain. "The fucker won't even know what hit him."

The Dragons had set up their six howitzers on top of the highest peak east of Metulla, and 100 meters south of the 3-meter-tall fence. The electrified barrier designates the limit of the southern-Lebanon security zone, which at places is about 20 kilometers wide.

There were no berms in front of the guns, no security save a lone sentry and a single strand of barbed wire encircling the site, no *esprit de corps*; just slow-motion prepping of shells, coordination and calibration of aim, and the firing of guns. Over and over again.

"Look, I'm just in this because I have to be," said Mordeci, an IDF private originally from the northeastern United States. "I don't have anything against the Lebanese, but orders are orders. Hey, stand back. We're going to fire soon."

The battery's commander, a captain with salt-and-pepper hair, motioned me back to the safety of the perimeter road. Then the howitzers barked one after another, belching smoke and gut-tightening shock waves.

"Okay, you can come back, we're finished for now," Mordeci called.

I walked back to his position. "Today is *shabbath*, you know — the sabbath," the Israeli private said. "So some of us are going to pray. Are you religious?"

"What about the operation?" I asked.

"We always take it easy on the sabbath," Mordeci explained. "The Hezbollah aren't going anywhere. We've got plenty of time to blow them up."

Al.J. Venter

Norwegian soldier of U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon scans hills above Marjayoun for suspicious activity. About 4,500 U.N. troops from nine nations are deployed in southern Lebanon in difficult peacekeeping mission.

SOF *Chief Foreign Correspondent Mark H. Milstein, based in Budapest, took a break from his coverage of NATO's Bosnia mission to visit the Middle East.*

Southern Lebanon Scorecard

Hezbollah is not the only enemy of Israel in the eastern Mediterranean. There also is *Amal* and, to a lesser extent, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

As a result of its own excesses, the external PLO factions have been relegated to the fringes in Lebanon. They live in a string of primitive refugee camps along the coast, all of them strictly controlled by the Lebanese army. None of the irregular military movements in Lebanon will admit a Palestinian to their ranks, though they sometimes do jobs on contract for Hezbollah, with the *Mullahs* ("holy men") supplying the hardware and picking up the tab. The PLO is able to launch perhaps one or two raids a month against the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) or its surrogate, the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

The Palestinian "Black 13 September" battalion is a small force operating out of Sidon and run by a former PLO colonel. It used Sagger antitank missiles provided by Hezbollah to hit settlements in northern Israel last October. The movement also has its own suicide squad, some of whose members have been able to infiltrate the Gaza Strip, probably through the Sudan and Egypt.

Amal, by contrast, is a powerful political and military force in Lebanon. Its chief, Nabih Berri, also a Shi'ite, is speaker of the Lebanese parliament. Although not physically opposed to the presence of Hezbollah in Lebanon, Amal is deeply suspicious. A bitter three-year war, amid the ruinous Lebanese civil war, was fought between Amal and Hezbollah from 1987 on. It was only the Damascus Agreement between the warring parties in 1991 that allowed the Mullahs back into the villages.

On Israel's side is the South Lebanon Army, now about 2,500 strong. For years the SLA has been the "wild card" in the Lebanon deck.

It was formed in the late '70s by Colonel Yoram Hamizrachi, an IDF reserve officer who later spent a bit of time with me in South Africa. Jerusalem tasked him with creating a "cushion" between Israel and hostile forces to the north. Hamizrachi created a highly successful little army that is trained, equipped and paid by Israel. Of course, SLA operations ultimately are controlled by the IDF's high command. Further, at least 1,000 Israeli troops are stationed in this southern-Lebanon buffer at any time.

Amal, Palestinian and, more recently, Hezbollah (the Iran- and Syria-backed "Party of God") units that aimed to strike at northern Israel first had to cross what the United Nations calls "the Israeli-controlled area." Many infiltrators were killed or captured and, no doubt, many Israeli lives were saved. (A map of the security zone and U.N. deployments in southern Lebanon appeared in last month's *SOF* report, "Katyushas For The Koran.")

The SLA until recently worked in conjunction with other elements of the security apparatus installed by the Jewish state. These agencies have set up one of the most comprehensive and sensitive early-warning systems to be found on any continent. Much of the materiel is American-made.

A.J. Venter

Civilian motorists in Israel-controlled security zone pull off road at approach South Lebanon Army M-113 armored personnel carrier. SLA troops are wary; Hezbollah infiltrators plant command-detonated bombs along roads.

Infiltrators face vast numbers of electronic vibration and infrared sensors; ground-surveillance radar detects suspicious movements. The IDF has a huge radar base in Lebanon, just north of Naqoura on the coast; the antennae are conspicuous off to the right as one drives up the coastal highway to Tyre. The Israelis in recent years added saturation surveillance by remotely piloted vehicles (RPVs), that are capable of remaining aloft for six hours and transmitting coded signals from an altitude of 20,000 feet. (The Syrians have been trying to jam these signals for years.)

In spite of all of these measures, Hezbollah and (to a lesser extent) Amal still manage to slip people through the security zone to rocket or mortar settlements in northern Israel or attack IDF and SLA outposts.

It is not widely known that a Hezbollah contingent recently drove an IDF unit from its position in the security zone. The Arabs did not hold the ground, for they certainly would have been shelled by Israeli artillery, but stayed long enough to raise the Hezbollah flag over the command post and film the event for broadcast on Beirut television.

Hezbollah's penetration units go to remarkable lengths to slip into the zone and attack IDF and SLA troops. Ambushers often will lie in the same position for two or three days without resupply. They thwart infrared surveillance by wearing camouflaged wet suits, which keep the men warm at night and retain body heat.

For its part, Israel has rewarded it allies in the disputed area. Southern Lebanese who enlist into the SLA receive support, training, equipment and pay. Their wounded are medivaced to Israeli hospitals when the 75-bed facility in Marjayoun (home to the SLA's headquarters) is insufficient. Moreover, the Israeli government issues work permits to families of SLA soldiers for jobs in northern Israel. They cross the border each day through Metulla's "Good Fence," an oxymoron if ever there was one considering the number of people who have been killed in that area in the past 50 years.

The original militia commander, Major Sa'ad Haddad (whom I got to know quite well over the years) died of cancer in an Israeli clinic. Like most of his recruits, he was a Christian. In the early '80s the SLA was nearly 90% Christian; the rest

Continued on page 65

THE BOYS OF

SF's "RuF" And Tough Raiders

by Sgt. Maj. William D. Waugh (Ret.)

My watch showed 2300; right on schedule. Within the perimeter of the U.S. Army Special Forces camp at Bong Son, in northeastern Binh Dinh province, 85 Vietnamese troops lined up with their weapons and gear for our pre-operational inspection.

These soldiers of the 883rd Vietnamese Regional Force (RF) were young and untested. They had completed a basic infantry course only three days earlier, on 11 June 1965, under the tutelage of Special Forces (SF) team A-321, of which I was the team sergeant.

This would be their graduation exercise: a raid on a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) bivouac.

Special Forces Captain Paris Davis, Staff Sergeant David Morgan, Specialist 4 Robert D. Brown, and I, then a master sergeant, would guide the three RF platoons. Morgan and I had extensive combat experience, while Davis had limited time in facing-off with the enemy. Brown, one of A-321's able medical specialists, had zero combat time. I kept him near me as the unit silently departed the assembly area shortly after midnight.

Our raid force moved eastward. The four of us carried M16 rifles. Our RF troops carried an assortment of M1 Garand rifles, M2 carbines, BARs, and Browning M1919A6 light machine guns.

The NVA soldiers — "Charlies" to us — were camped a few kilometers north of the An Lao River and east of Highway 1, near the coast. I mentally played back our training of the RF platoons and the planning for this mission.

courtesy William D. Waugh

Master Sgt. Billy Waugh (left) tugs on a tree branch as members of Team A-321, 5th Special Forces Group, take a breather during Regional Force training in South Vietnam. Members of SF teams commonly wore "tiger stripe" (black, green and brown) cammies, and carried M16 rifles and M79 grenade launchers. In 1965 SF troops still hauled personal and team equipment in old-style, frameless rucksacks.

Training, Planning, Recon

We had drilled our RF infantry students in carrying out a raid: a tactic in which a unit, apprised of as much timely information as possible, secretly moves to a target, usually under cover of darkness, from assigned positions and attacks. Surprise and violence are essential. Killing as many Charlies as possible erodes the communists' fighting strength, lowers morale and disrupts lines of communications.

The "teachers" in A-321, using interpreters, had taught these concepts in outdoor classrooms. Consulting topo maps of the target area, we built three-dimensional "terrain models" in the dirt for the RF trainees to study and commit to memory. We walked them through their "actions on the objective." We rehearsed the attack over and over. And we repeatedly emphasized the need for a swift withdrawal: "To tarry at a raid site is to die at that raid site."

This "graduation exercise" was based on information I had obtained from another team in the 5th Special Forces Group.

On 9 June Master Sgt. Tony Duarte, assigned to Project Delta, visited our camp at Bong Son. He told me that his small team had just completed a four-day recon to the east of the city of Bong Son. Tony said he personally observed about 500 uniformed, well-equipped NVA troops bivouacked just 10 klicks from our "A" camp. This NVA unit appeared to be fresh but in no hurry to depart the area.

"Billy, when you tackle this bunch make sure you have enough air support to handle them," Tony cautioned. "They look plenty tough, and are armed to the teeth."

Two days later, Capt. Davis, Staff Sgt. Ronald Wingo and I led an RF platoon recon. We crossed Highway 1 without being observed. After marching to the east another 4 kilometers, we spotted an NVA platoon in bivouac. Silhouetted against the early morning skyline, they did not appear to have a care in the world. We crept closer, then quietly took up firing positions. The enemy soldiers jabbered among themselves, cooking their morning rice — until we ordered our RF machine gunners to fire. They killed several before the NVA troops withdrew to the east, returning fire with automatic weapons.

Our platoon did not pursue. We intended only to gather information concerning enemy strength and location.

Back at camp, A-321 discussed the situation in a team meeting. We decided to conduct a raid on the enemy stronghold at 0600 on 15 June. A plan for this "graduation exercise" was produced. The RF'ers again were drilled in raid tactics. Taking Tony Duarte's advice to heart, we arranged for air support as well as artillery from the

BONG SON

Bong Son fire base. We would be supported at first light by a forward air controller (FAC) in an L-19 spotter plane.

You Snooze, You Lose

The luminous dial on my watch showed 0400: two hours to go. Noise discipline among our RF platoons was damned fine. We moved silently through the bush, heading east along the An Lao River.

I was within 5 feet of the point man when he halted and raised his hand. I moved to him. He pointed. Using my binoculars (which enhance vision even in the darkness), I saw a uniformed man sitting on the riverbank, apparently asleep. The point man and I crept up to Charlie. Awakened by a knife to his throat, he gave up without a word.

He was fully uniformed and carried an AK-47 rifle with two magazines and a medical kit. We pulled his arms behind his back and snapped a plastic handcuff on his wrists. The leader of the RF 1st Platoon quietly interrogated Charlie, who said he had been on guard duty and fallen asleep. When asked where his unit was, and how many were in his unit, he simply pointed east. Then Charlie clammed up. We gagged him for silence, then handed him over to 2nd Platoon. We moved out.

At about 0500 we changed direction: north, away from the river. Closing the distance to our objective, we moved very slowly, carefully. I spotted a grass shack and heard the singsong chatter of Vietnamese conversation.

SOF Files

South Vietnamese "self-defense" troops trained at U.S. Army Special Forces camps in the mid-1960s received hand-me-down weapons and personal equipment, such as this man with Korean War-era .30-caliber carbine.

courtesy William D. Waugh

South Vietnamese Regional Force soldier, his M2 .30-caliber carbine slung over shoulder, fires at burning, enemy huts with captured AK-47. American Special Forces soldier, in tiger-stripe cammies and carrying M16, watches at left.

I crept forward with Brown, the SF medic, close behind. I spotted a man in black pajamas squatting down, kindling a cook fire. With the RF point man at my side, I moved toward the NVA soldier.

He rattled on in Vietnamese with someone I could not see. He was fanning the fire when I struck him with the butt of my M16 rifle, knocking him out. Instantly I felt a stinging blow on my neck and face. The soldier's companion, a woman, was swinging at me with a stick. My point man buried his knife in this jungle woman's neck, ending her tour of duty in South Vietnam. We bound the groggy Charlie, another POW.

This scuffle made little noise; any nearby Charlies had not detected our presence. We could see several small fires flickering in the jungle. I thought, "Damned if this raid isn't going to occur from the inside of Charlie's domain."

We had penetrated the NVA safe area. All hell was going to break loose, PDQ.

Movement To Contact

Zero six hundred approached. Moving northwest, I noticed two large huts 10 meters from our wide trail. Davis, Morgan, Brown and I silently halted the RFers with hand and arm signals: palm down and pointing to the enemy. I signaled for the lead platoon to move *most quietly* on line to give our automatic weapons a clear field of fire. I got down and signalled the RFers to assume the lowest silhouette possible.

Removing two mini-grenades from my belt (I was carrying 15), I got ready. We carefully watched and listened, making certain these huts were occupied.

The first rays of the sun illuminated our targets. At that moment, an NVA soldier stepped outside. He stretched his arms — and at least 50 red tracer rounds ended his military career. Excited RFers fired five- to 10-round bursts into him and the open doors of the huts. Ready or not, the raid was on. We began lobbing grenades into the flimsy structures.

Davis and Morgan broke off and moved northward. Halting about 30 meters away, they got ready to ambush NVA troops coming our way.

Our grenades and automatic weapons wrecked the two huts. I counted about 60 NVA bodies, total. They had been sleeping side-by-side on low, wide bunks like sardines in a can. (Our two prisoners also had been killed trying to escape during the shooting.) This was no time to gloat over our success — which was strictly due to surprise: We were within the perimeter of a large NVA unit.

By 0620, Morgan and the captain were putting out a large volume of gunfire. I ran to them. It seemed to me that many of our RF troops had disappeared, but there was no time to do anything about it. The NVA unit now was responding with heavy fire from several positions to the north and east.

I saw a Charlie dive to safety behind a small berm. Morgan, being one fine SF soldier, told me, "Watch this shit."

Taking careful aim with an M79 bloop gun, he fired at a tree directly behind the

berm. The 40mm round hit the tree trunk, exploding on impact and killing Charlie with shrapnel. I thought to myself, "Damn fine technique there, David."

Then we heard the distinct sounds of two bugles — damn sure not *our* bugles. We were in the middle of at least a battalion-size unit; the bugles were signalling for Charlie to reorganize.

To tarry is to die; Morgan and I ran northward, tossing grenades into huts. I lobbed one white-phosphorous grenade as we legged it through the NVA village. Our audacity in charging into the middle of the camp gave what was left of our force a short-lived advantage. We killed or wounded several more NVA troops. But we were running low on time and M16 ammunition.

Unass This AO

Our plan called for a rapid exit from the target to high ground about 2 klicks to the west, upon signal by a selected RF soldier using a red star-cluster flare. There was no signal, but it was time to move.

By now, NVA bullets were buzzing through the area like bees on honey. Green tracers ricocheted all around but none had found us yet. We gave hand and arm signals to move west.

As we made our escape the protecting, jungle thickness ended. Ahead were 75 meters of open field: a dry rice paddy. We dashed into the open.

Halfway across I saw Brown go down, 50 meters away. As I pivoted in his direction I was shot through the right knee. It knocked me off my feet. Sprawled on the ground, I looked back at the NVA. A hail of green tracers was arcing in my direction. I rolled over a rice paddy bank and cozied up to it. Morgan joined me. Heavy-caliber rounds slammed into the packed dirt.

My knee wound bled a little. As I peered over the paddy bank, I saw a platoon of NVA about 100 meters to my northeast. Morgan and I gave them a couple of bursts from our M16s. Morgan had two 40mm rounds left, so he launched them. I counted a dozen or more RF troops, wounded or dead, in the field.

I yelled for Capt. Davis. He didn't answer. I could have kicked myself; we had no radio. The FAC in his light plane now was over the area, tooling merrily along, while all hell was breaking loose on the ground and we couldn't talk to him!

Morgan and I loaded our M16s with red tracers. We fired ahead of the FAC's plane. He got the message. The L-19 veered to the south of the battle area. Morgan and I displayed our bright-red signal panels; the FAC gunned his engine in acknowledgment. He could not fail to notice the origin of Charlie's green tracers, now as thick as fireflies.

Thirty seconds passed. Then I heard the familiar buzz of artillery rounds overhead. It was coming from the fire base at Bong Son and exploding back in the jungle within the NVA area. What a relief!

Morgan and I took this opportunity to crawl from our paddy cover into a wallow about 8 meters across. There was enough room for us and the water buffalo whose mud we were hiding in. That big, evil-looking bastard had his snout sticking out of the muck. His eyes were wide as he snorted his disapproval. Morgan and I caught our breath and planned our next move, fortunately without any trouble from that big bastard.

I yelled at Davis, asking him if he had a radio. He didn't. The three RF radio operators had been killed or had gotten lost. But we had guardian angels above us: a squared-away FAC pilot with one of our guys from A-321 in the back seat. From their vantage they were coordinating fire and rescue missions.

courtesy William D. Waugh

Some members of Special Forces team A-321 in happier times: left, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Bates; back to camera, Staff Sgt. David Morgan; center (facing camera) is medic, Specialist 4 Robert D. Brown, who would die following 15 June 1965 raid on NVA camp east of Bong Son; right, Sgt. 1st Class Byrle "Rat" Wilson.

In The Beaten Zone

Artillery continued to pound the NVA's area, preventing Charlie from overrunning our positions. During a lull, Morgan and I left the buffalo wallow.

We were crawling toward cover and high ground when a large-caliber tracer round ripped through the sole of my right jungle boot, searing flesh and removing bones as it exited my foot. Damn, what pain!

Morgan made it to cover as I continued to crawl. But the NVA machine gunners weren't through with me. I was shot through the left ankle, then the left arm (that bullet blew my watch off my wrist). I *had* get out of the beaten zone of this machine-gun fire. I wiggled into a niche behind two small trees at the west side of the paddy. Charlie was chopping down those trees with green tracers. As I hugged the ground my sphincter could have cut railroad spikes. I heard NVA troops screaming their victory yell.

I checked my wounds. I saw that I

courtesy William D. Waugh

Flanked by an Army doctor and medical-corps officer, Master Sgt. Waugh is presented with Silver Star and Army Commendation medals while recovering from wounds received in Vietnam.

could not run or even walk. I wasn't bleeding to the degree of danger from loss of blood, but the bones of my right foot and left ankle were fragmented. I told myself to stay calm; there were too many bullets flying around to go into shock now. I had no ammunition, no grenades, no radio, and little left of my clothing. I made a promise to God: "If you help me out of this one, I will owe you one — Sir."

The Almighty must have heard me. About that time I looked up and saw two Navy fighters fly over. I also heard a helicopter land on the high ground about 100 meters behind us. The jets dropped napalm right on Charlie's positions in the jungle.

But as soon as the jets used up their ordnance and departed, the NVA machine gunners went back to work. Here came the green tracers again. A ricochet opened up my forehead; a flesh wound. Charlie had not forgotten me.

Then we got lucky: Morgan found a discarded rucksack with an AN/PRC-25 radio. He and Davis radioed instructions to the FAC, who adjusted the air strikes and artillery fire.

Orbiting in his flimsy little plane, the FAC brought in more fighters to bomb and strafe. But the green tracers continued their angry search for us. I watched some NVA soldiers at the northeast corner of the rice paddy form up as if to sweep through our area. But like the cavalry to the rescue, a Huey gunship helicopter swooped in to scatter them with machine-gun fire.

Davis yelled, "I'm going to try for you, Billy!"

He crawled to within an arm's length of me. A green tracer impacted beside him, blowing a 6-inch divot in the mud. He had to take cover. I told him to "cool it" until some more air support arrived. We waited.

Struggle For High Ground

By mid-afternoon, some reinforcements from Bong Son arrived. Sergeant 1st Class Reinburg, from A-321, scrambled to our hiding place. He and Davis double-teamed me, pulling me across a trail and onto a slope. There was no way I could walk. Davis then lifted me onto his back, but stumbled and fell. Reinburg began dragging me uphill as Davis pushed, so up I went.

At the top of the hill, Davis and Reinburg were completely exhausted. We started downhill, to what we hoped would be safety. But Charlie had fanned out. Reinburg was shot twice and went down. The bullets bracketed his heart, yet he lived.

courtesy William D. Waugh

Green beret Billy Waugh in 1968, then serving in Vietnam in the Studies and Observation Group (SOG).

A medevac helicopter landed on the west side of the hill. Men scrambled out of the bird. I was tossed into the Huey. Just then a door gunner took a bullet through the left arm above the elbow. It almost tore his arm off.

We got the hell out of there. Minutes later the bird touched down at Bong Son. Still conscious and coherent, I told SFC Kenneth Bates, our radio man, that heavy-duty support must get to the battle area ASAP.

Then I was flown to Qui Nhon, where our SF "B" Team was based. A few of the lads came to the airstrip to wish me well. One of them, our administrative officer, joked with me about being "out of uniform." I was flown on an Air Force cargo plane to Nha Trang, then rushed into the military hospital and immediately operated on. I was covered with leeches, too; the operating room's head nurse told me later that the OR staff had difficulty distinguishing leech wounds from bullet holes.

The next day the commanding officer of the 5th Special Forces Group, Colonel John H. Spears, visited me in the hospital's recovery ward. I asked about the battle. The CO told me that Davis and Morgan had been extracted, wounded but alive, along with the remaining RF troops. Brown was found where he had fallen, in the middle of the paddy. He had been shot in the head, but did not die immediately. I recalled, sadly, how eager this young SF medic had been to prove himself in combat. Later the same day the U.S. commander, General William C. Westmoreland, visited the hospital and was taken by surprise when he saw me. He visited at length with me, Reinburg, and a trio of others wounded in the Bong Son action.

SOF Files

Special Forces soldier takes breather with gear and weapons in arms' reach: rucksack, M79 grenade launcher with 40mm rounds, and bandoleer of 20-round magazines for M16 rifle.

Following on the heels of our "graduation exercise," a battalion of friendly troops marched into the area. Sweeping through the NVA camp, they found more than 300 bodies and tons of ammunition and weapons.

I later was flown to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines, then to Okinawa. All of my injuries healed fine except for the bone-shattering wound to my foot. I was transferred stateside to Walter Reed hospital in September 1965. There was doctor talk about amputating my right foot, but I shot that idea down in a hurry. After my discharge from Walter Reed in February 1966, I argued my way back to full duty.

I returned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, having whined and pleaded for orders back to Group. I reported to the 7th Special Forces Group. Next stop: South Vietnam and the Studies and Observation Group.

Billy Waugh first saw combat in the Korean War. The Bastrop, Texas, native joined Special Forces in 1954; he served more than 7 years in Vietnam. This is his first contribution to SOF.

The H&K MP5 is a very cost-effective police weapon. It costs little to maintain and operate and, as MP5 serial number 316019 demonstrated, they can consume an amazing amount of ammunition during their lifetimes with relatively little expense or repair.

How many rounds will the MP5 withstand before it self-destructs? The answer depends on whether or not you allow for a barrel change. If installation of a new barrel is permitted, then no one really knows how many rounds these submachine guns can consume or withstand.

But if the original barrel must remain in the receiver then how about a quarter of a million rounds? Could it survive a half-million? How does 571,600 rounds sound? Just such an astounding performance is verified by records maintained by the security force protecting the John F. Kennedy Space Center. They record every round fired and each part replaced during a particular MP5's service life.

Through the cooperation of Gary Wistrand, director of security at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC), and his staff we were able to examine the records of an MP5 that was part of the first shipment of submachine guns the NASA security force received. These records were maintained by Bill Barousse, senior security administrator and range master.

The security force protecting the astronauts and the space shuttle were first equipped with H&K MP5s in 1984. The first consignment consisted of six submachine guns, all MP5A3s. This created a slight operational problem since every member of this force of more than 150 personnel is required to train and qualify with the weapon. Yet, some guns must remain available for use by the various

DIE-HARD SUBGUN

MP5 Survives 571,600 Rounds

Text & Photos by Frank W. James

units on duty. A compromise was reached by designating three guns solely as training weapons, and assigning the remaining three to the field.

These field guns were augmented over a period of time by a significant number of additional MP5A3s. (Our research indicates the KSC security force has not used the "SD" or "K" models of the MP5.) But the first three guns designated for training remained in use solely for instruction, retraining and proficiency exams for SWAT team members and patrol officers.

And in the process, each of these three MP5s ate an enormous amount of 9mm Parabellum ammunition. The average SWAT team member at KSC uses between 15,000 to 18,000 rounds per year in MP5 training and practice. The average Kennedy Space Center law-enforcement officer will use approximately the same amount during his MP5 training and qualifications. The average amount consumed by KSC patrol officers averages 4,500 to 5,000 rounds each year.

Name, Rank And Serial Number

MP5 serial number 316019 arrived at the Kennedy Space Center on 27 July 1984. The weapon first saw use in August, training SWAT team members and traffic officers, consuming 4,500 rounds during that 31-day period at the firing range. It was used every remaining month that year.

By 31 December 1984, it had con-

Bill Barousse, senior security administrator and range master for the security contractor at the NASA facility at Kennedy Space Center, holds one of three MP5s that digested more than a half-million rounds during its training life. Not *once* was it out of service.

Only small parts required replacement during the hard life of MP5 no. 316019. (Inset) The barrel didn't have the expected "sewer pipe" appearance, but was significantly out of spec from excessive wear.

sumed 25,600 rounds without problem. In December alone 8,000 rounds were fired in training. Around this time, however, it began requiring the replacement of various small parts.

In 1985, Range Master Bill Barousse started seeing firing-pin spring failures that he attributed to heat build-up in the gun from various factors. The obvious source was full-auto training with multiple magazines. But the ambient air temperature was also a factor. The KSC training and firing range routinely experience temperatures of 100 degrees F or higher during the summer months.

The first recorded problem occurred on 10 February 1985, when the broken firing-pin spring was discovered. The firing pin and firing-pin spring were both replaced. This MP5 had digested almost 30,000 rounds by this time but it was still functioning perfectly — even with the broken firing-pin spring.

The firing-pin spring was replaced again on 22 September 1985 for the same reason, and again on 15 October. On 22 October 1985, the front handguard was replaced when it was broken by a trainee during a training exercise.

As a direct result of these experiences, KSC adopted the policy of literally drowning the bolt head and carrier in oil, specifically "Tri-Flow." This action was taken whenever the weapon demonstrated a dirty action in the field, or if it was exhibiting signs of excessive heat. It was routinely cleaned at the armory in a mineral spirit bath every 1,000 rounds or upon its return from the firing range, whichever came first.

This particular brand of oil was used because it was easily available through government supply channels and, therefore, worked well for their purposes. It remains the preferred choice for the majority of their firearms lubrication needs.

The lubrication procedure of drowning the bolt head in oil runs counter to the recommended lubrication practice set forth by H&K: They want the bolt head and bolt carrier to carry a thin film of oil and little more.

The KSC procedure results in the bolt carrier and bolt head literally dripping with lubricant. The procedure is continued to this day with great emphasis and the added recommendation of coating the rollers in the bolt head with "Tetra-Gun" oil lubricant.

They also recommend using aerosol "Tri-Flow" to "hose" down the inside of the receiver. On the range KSC security personnel are instructed to spray the lubricant down the barrel and respray the bolt head after firing every two or three magazines during intensive training.

Parts were replaced as a natural process, but the emphasis should be on the fact that all of the parts replaced can be classified as *small parts*. Not one such failure required the gun to be returned to the manufacturer or importer for repair, or even

Round Count

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
JAN	****	3,000	10,000	11,000	11,000	9,000	3,000
FEB	****	5,000	9,000	5,000	12,000	8,000	****
MAR	****	4,500	15,000	16,000	11,500	15,000	****
APR	****	4,500	12,000	8,000	15,000	14,000	****
MAY	****	5,000	9,500	7,5000	10,000	15,000	****
JUN	****	9,000	11,500	9,500	9,000	12,000	****
JUL	****	6,000	13,000	8,500	10,000	8,000	****
AUG	4,500	5,000	8,000	12,500	15,000	11,000	****
SEP	5,600	3,500	8,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	****
OCT	3,500	3,000	8,500	4,500	9,000	8,000	****
NOV	4,000	5,000	7,000	6,000	8,500	8,000	****
DEC	8,000	7,500	4,000	3,000	5,000	5,000	****
YR/ TOT	25,600	61,000	115,500	113,500	128,000	125,000	3,000
TOT	25,600	86,600	202,100	315,600	443,600	568,600	571,600

(top) Number 316019 was put in service as a training weapon and saw continuous duty from 1984 through 1990. It was officially retired on 14 October 1992 and later cannibalized for parts. (inset) Because of special climate conditions and heavy use, the Kennedy Space Center security force adopted a policy of drowning the bolt head with lubricant.

that the gun be taken out of daily service. The repairs were made in the KSC armory during routine cleaning and inspection.

Round And Round We Go

Bill Barousse explained they also began experiencing MP5 extractor problems after using ammunition from a different manufacturer when their normal supplier had problems obtaining new primed cartridges cases. Kennedy security normally utilizes ammunition loaded according to its contract specifications: a 115-gr jacketed hollow-point bullet averaging 1,250 fps out of the Glock 17 duty pistol.

The substituted ammunition in question was reportedly headstamped "T Z Z" and had a brass case that was harder, and a rim of greater thickness. Only 30,000 rounds were used within a three-month training period, but its lingering effects lasted for more than two years. They began replacing extractors in all guns that fired this ammunition.

The records show the final tally for repairs and parts replaced on MP5 serial no. 316019 after 1985, went as follows:

Jan. '86 — replaced roller holder

Feb. '86 — replaced rollers to tighten bolt gap. (Note: This was approximately the 100,000-round mark on this MP5.)

June '86 — replaced extractor and extractor spring

July '86 — replaced roller holder

Nov. '86 — replaced sliding retractable stock due to SWAT training damage

March '87 — replaced firing pin and firing-pin spring

April '87 — replaced entire recoil-spring assembly (Note: The KSC staff are instructed not to remove the recoil-spring assembly from the bolt group during cleaning/disassembly. The recoil-spring assembly at this point was replaced because the polymer rings on each end of the assembly were worn out, and the KSC staff was unable to secure new ones, so the entire assembly was replaced. By now the gun had fired more than 250,000 rounds.)

May '87 — replaced roller holder

July '87 — replaced roller holder

Nov. '87 — replaced roller holder and roller-holder pin

Jan. '88 — replaced magazine release spring

March '88 — replaced rear-sight drum

March'88 — replaced extractor and extractor spring

May '88 — replaced extractor and extractor spring

April '89 — replaced firing pin, firing-pin spring, and extractor spring

May '89 — replaced extractor

Feb. '92 — replaced rollers to tighten bolt gap

On 14 October 1992, MP5 serial number 316019 was officially taken out of service. On 10 December, the weapon was cannibalized for parts (front handguard and locking pin).

MP5 serial number 316019 consumed more than a quarter-million rounds of ammunition in less than two years. And it fired more than a half-million rounds in less than five years. The final year, 1990, brought the total round count through the gun to 571,600 rounds in *less* than six years!

The gun was still working at this point, but headspace was out of tolerance, and the inherent accuracy of the gun was poor. The statement was made, "It would be difficult to hit an IPSC target at 10 feet with full-auto fire."

Surprisingly, the barrel didn't have the expected "sewer pipe" appearance, but was significantly out of spec due to excessive wear. The gun was rusted in places due to the humid climate and, even though it had been in open storage for more than two

In 571,600 rounds, MP5 serial number 316019 used the following replacement parts during its service life:

* five roller holders
* five firing-pin springs
* four extractors
* four extractor springs
* three firing pins
* two different sets of oversize locking rollers
* one roller-holder pin
* one recoil-spring assembly
* one magazine-release spring
* one handguard
* one retractable stock
* one rear-sight drum

(The last three parts were replaced due to sustained damage during training or operations and were not replaced as the result of wear or normal parts failure.)

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KRIS TO KALASHNIKOV

The Philippines' Simmering *Jihad*

Text & Photos by Don Kirk

You hesitate to call this place part of the Philippines even though, technically, you are on Filipino soil in the middle of Mindanao: a vast, jungle-covered island fought over for centuries.

This is the heart of *Bangsa Moro*, the "Moro nation" and homeland of Muslims whose leaders ruled the region by "the swish of the *kris*" before the Spanish unsuccessfully tried to subdue them beginning more than 400 years ago. (The Spanish even contributed the name *Moro* from their own wars with the Moors: Muslims driven out of Spain.)

The fighters for this land — untracked jungle, sweeping mountains, valleys of triple-canopied forest — are no longer swishing their deadly *kris* knives. Rather, they're firing U.S.-made weapons mostly taken from the armed forces of the Philippines, the "enemy" the Moros fight as fiercely as they ever fought the Spanish or Americans. The government in Manila considers these Muslim rebels to be a major threat to internal security.

They get their guns from middlemen who buy them from corrupt Filipino officers; also, from suppliers in Malaysia and Brunei, Islamic nations once bound to their own sultans and rajahs by blood and religious ties. The Moros receive funding from distant benefactors in Saudi Arabia and other Islamic countries to keep alive the spirit of Islam in Mindanao against the intrusions of waves of Christians.

Old Moro warrior proudly displays traditional weapon and agricultural tool, the *barong* short sword, during visit to MNLF base.

Black-suited scout of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (center) joins patrol of MILF troops on a trail west of Bumbaran, on Mindanao island. They carry an assortment of weapons, including M16A1 rifles reportedly bought from corrupt Filipino soldiers.

A Fragile Truce

The shooting has mostly stopped around the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's (MILF's) base camp. Newcomers are warned not to go anywhere alone in the region because of freelance kidnappers and thieves, some of whom claim they're also fighting for Islam. In remote areas across the mountains, soldiers from an Islamic "lost command" pillage churches, markets and homes when villagers appear reluctant to give them the requisite donations. Here at Camp Al Bubakara, however, the troops are primed for war.

After years of training that was mostly unchallenged by Filipino government troops, the Moros may be more primed, more ready for action than ever — at least to judge by what I saw during the two days I spent there.

Soldiers at the MILF camp talk about *jihad* ("holy war") on behalf of Bangsa Moro as if they were on the front lines of a shooting war as hot as those for Bosnia or Afghanistan. That's partly because many of their leaders actually were trained in Afghanistan, where the term *jihad* was the rallying cry of leaders of several Muslim factions.

Theoretically there is no bloody jihad going on around the town of Bumbaran, the sprawling site of rickety outposts, a campground, training facility, even an Islamic university in a faded cement building, all set in desolate farmland surrounded by low, jungle-covered mountains. Rather, there is a stalemate, an armed truce. Young guerrillas, all heavily armed with American weapons, notably M16 rifles and M60 machine guns, hold the line against government forces down the road toward Cotabato, the central city of both Muslim revolt and the government's efforts at combating it.

The truce reflects an off-again, on-again effort at achieving a lasting peace at various rounds of talks in Jakarta, in keep-

ing with an agreement signed in 1976 at Tripoli, Libya, between the government in Manila and the leader of a rival Islamic movement, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). The leaders of the MILF, although openly skeptical, say they'll abide by the truce while awaiting the outcome of the talks.

The aloofness of the MILF (which Manila estimates has 8,000 troops) is a symptom of more than just its absence from the peace process: It long since repudiated the rival MNLF's chairman, Nur Misuari. The MILF leader, Hashim Salamat, broke away from the MNLF soon after the signing of the agreement — but not because he disagreed with it. Indeed, the MILF's position now is for absolutely strict adherence to the terms of the Tripoli agreement.

It calls for "autonomous" Islamic rule over 13 — more than half — of Mindanao's provinces plus a number of cities, including Cotabato, not under provincial rule. Government negotiators say they've come to terms with the MNLF on just about every point of contention except one: whether, or how, to hold a plebiscite among local residents to see if they want autonomous Islamic rule. Such a vote would be a resounding "no" in more than half of the cities and provinces.

MILF troops carry stringers of catfish "donated" by Mindanao villagers. Moro guerrillas wear variety of uniforms, including woodland and desert BDUs and blue jeans.

Standing in formation outside barracks, Moro National Liberation Front troops carry variety of weapons, taken or bought from government soldiers: M16A1 and M14 rifles, and M203 and M79 grenade launchers.

For most of this century non-Muslim Filipinos, mostly Catholics, have been migrating to Mindanao under a series of promotional efforts that, if anything, intensified when the Philippines gained independence in 1946. All Islamic leaders — MNLF, MILF, extremists and moderates — agree a local vote would harm the cause, given what they view as the "invasion" by non-Muslims from the large northern island of Luzon and the central islands clustered around the Visayan Sea north of Mindanao.

Catholic vs. Muslim

The "new" arrivals, a majority of them second or third generation, say they're here to stay and have the right to vote against Islamic rule. The non-Muslim inhabitants talk in their original regional languages and look down on Muslims as social and economic inferiors who, they say, are out to cheat them, extort "donations" and "protection" money or, at worst, kidnap and kill them.

At the base camp's training facility, where MILF officers drill and indoctrinate "cadets" during 45-day courses, Moro fighters mutter "No compromise." They want full enactment of the Tripoli agreement. (The agreement finally was approved after Imelda Marcos, wife of President Ferdinand Marcos — then riding high at the height of martial law — met Libyan leader Muammar Khadaffi.)

But government officials in Manila now say the Tripoli agreement was a Marcos-era mistake. They are angling for a deal whereby MNLF leader Misuari would accept some form of autonomy in *half* of Mindanao's provinces — something the rival MILF would view as reason to resume fighting.

MILF soldiers suspect that Misuari might be tempted to sell out their holy cause. The MILF is committed to holding on to the territory it's got — against both the government and the MNLF — for a complex web of reasons that show just how fragile any lasting peace would be for the Moros.

An obvious cause of the split between the two major Islamic movements is that the MILF's Salamat is a fundamentalist who takes a strict view of Islam. On the other hand, Misuari once studied and taught at the University of the Philippines where he was a friend and ally of Jose Maria Sison, the leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines. (Sison now directs that movement from the Netherlands.) MILF members say Misuari is too leftist and too secular for their tastes. They suspect any government he formed would not be Islamic at all. Further, this division overflows from religious issues to linguistic and regional ones.

Misuari is from Sulu island, between southwestern Mindanao and the Malaysian state of Sabah; Salamat is from the Maguindanao province, the center of MILF power. People here speak a local language, Maguindanaon. They do not speak Tausug, a leading language of Sulu and Basilan, the island south of the Zamboanga Peninsula that is a stronghold for Misuari and the MNLF.

MILF patrol passes villagers on muddy road impassable except by foot and horseback. Guerrilla at center carries rifle with M203 grenade launcher.

BEATING PLOWSHARES INTO SWORDS

The portly commander of the Philippines National Police knocks on the door of the dingy rooming house where I've checked in. He wants to know what I'm doing here, on Jolo island in the Sulu Sea midway between the southernmost Filipino island of Mindanao and the Malaysian state of Sabah.

"I've been here seven months," Colonel Charlemagne "Charlie" Alejandrino tells me. "I have never seen a foreign journalist."

He makes it clear he's not going to kick me out and send me back to the city of Zamboanga on the southwest tip of Mindanao. Alejandrino just wants to advise me of a few realities.

"There have been killings in the past month," the colonel says. "If you look at the culture, it is only here where the people were not subdued. There was only an agreement with the American government early in this century. The people did not surrender."

Across the central plaza, Our Lady of Mount Carmel cathedral testifies to the terror that stalks this island province where well-armed Islamic guerrillas hold much of the territory against a reinforced brigade of Filipino marines and more than 1,000 policemen.

"On February 29 at 3:30 a.m., they poured gasoline on the front door and started a fire," says the Reverend Robert Layson, parish priest. "People outside smelled the gasoline and started shouting. They did not do extensive damage to the church except for the front door and the ceiling."

He added, "We used to ask for security only during the masses." Now, marines guard the cathedral round-the-clock. The priest still conducts services every day at 1700, but it is a shortened version to make sure worshipers are on their way home by 1730.

"Extortion is rampant, killing is every day," says Layson. "Who's behind it — we really don't know. Our people are very sad and angry and scared." A few minutes later, in a brief homily, he reminds his flock, "Killings have been going on almost every day, and most of the victims are Christians."

By 1800 the square and surrounding market areas, where terrorists are known to lurk and occasionally fire on shoppers, are empty. Jolo, a historic port and hub of inter-island trade, turns into a virtual ghost town at dusk.

A cease-fire prevails here — theoretically.

Nur Misuari, chairman of the MNLF, however, threatens to break it if the marines move directly against his men. "Many of those who say they want peace have a guilty conscience," Misuari tells me during an interview. "They have guilty consciences because they have committed crimes here."

Misuari has just returned to Sulu, the province of his and his followers' births, after another series of fruitless talks with government negotiators in Zamboanga. He's spending several days here, planning for the next round of talks — and wondering how soon the impasse will break down and his troops will fight again. Misuari is reluctant to compromise, especially since the breakaway MILF, a power in central Mindanao, will not go along with a deal for anything short of Islamic autonomy over the region.

"We get arms from the armed forces of the Philippines," Misuari tells me, explaining why the MNLF men surrounding the building carry U.S. weapons along with some Chinese AK-47 rifles. "If I have money, I can buy weapons any time of day."

He claims he gets the money from "donations" — and denies he's funded mainly by the Organization of Islamic Conferences, believed to be the major source of MNLF funding. "OIC support is just symbolic," says Misuari.

The sight of a shell-damaged mosque inspires Misuari to recall the greatest battle in recent memory, 22 years ago, between MNLF and government forces. The MNLF overran the town. "We controlled this city for two days," says Misuari. "Their tanks, their reinforcements came from the sea. We would have conquered them completely, but all the people were fleeing. They were afraid our shells would hit them. They begged us to stop."

Well-equipped detachment of Moro National Liberation Front troops guard building in which MNLF Chairman Misuari meets with subordinates in Jolo, capital of Sulu province. Troops' white tags, issued by Philippine officials, identify them as special security force.

As it was, Misuari's warriors burned down much of the town before fading into surrounding jungles and rice paddies.

Misuari's troops now hold the city under a kind of siege, but he blames the government for heightening the tension during the talks. He claims the marines deliberately staged a series of attacks and incidents, including a battle around a mosque outside of the town. Eleven people were killed there. Misuari angrily denies they were members of *Abu Sayeff*, an extremist MNLF group that the government blames for most of the troubles here.

"They have been portrayed as people associated with terrorist activities," he says. "It was the government which is at fault. People went to the mosque for victory celebrations. They were massacred inside. The armed forces were claiming they were Abu Sayeff. We think they were innocent people."

Once a professor at the University of the Philippines, Misuari formed the MNLF in 1968 after revelations of an especially macabre government plot: Scores of Muslim trainees on the island of Corregidor, in Manila Bay, secretly were killed after refusing to participate in a scheme by then-President Marcos for infiltrating Sabah, Malaysia. (Some Filipino leaders believe Sabah rightfully belongs to the Philippines since the sultan of Sulu ruled the whole region before the Spanish arrived in the 16th century.)

"All of them [trainees] had relatives in Sabah," says Misuari. "They did not know what they were being trained for. When they learned, they naturally refused. They could not kill their own people."

Nine days of protests followed these revelations. Four years later — and two weeks before Marcos declared mar-

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Camp Al Bubakara is located about 10 miles off a main road. In a shop along this main road, a merchant explained to me why the MILF and MNLF never can get along.

Can't They Just Get Along?

"We are all Islam, but we are different," he said. "I cannot understand them."

Lounging around the shop are a half dozen MILF soldiers armed with M16s, Chinese rocket-propelled grenades, and one M60 machine gun. The machine gunner first tells me the weapon came from "our factory," but then admitted it came from America when I asked to see its serial number.

Nearby on the road, several men bang away with heavy equipment. The MILF troops told me these men, who are in civilian clothes, are of the "Philippines army." The government troops, from an engineer unit several miles down the road on the way to the city of Cotabato, not only are out of uniform but also unarmed and unprotected — part of the cease-fire deal.

"They can work on the road through our territory, but they can't send soldiers," said one of my MILF guides. "We are protecting them." There is no eye contact, no communication between the MILF troops and the government soldiers.

Manila and assorted foreign-aid givers have painted Mindanao as a great place for investment and development. My talks with MILF and MNLF leaders led me to conclude otherwise. After all, how could any would-be investor think of plunging seriously into an area that might become a killing field, like Bosnia or Afghanistan, if negotiations in Jakarta do not go the right way? And what happens if Misuari *does* sign a compromise — and the MILF refuses to support it?

The answer, say the optimists, lies in another set of initials: EAGA, for East Asian Growth Area, which includes Mindanao, Indonesia, Brunei, and Malaysia.

"Investment is up throughout Mindanao," said Noel Kintanar, in the office of Philippines President Ramos' special assistant for Mindanao.

Kintanar partly attributed the growth to EAGA's role in encouraging trade and investment among member nations. He cited figures for foreign investment approaching $2 billion last year, but conceded that most of it goes into centers beyond the immediate scope of the Muslim rebels. Still, he cited projects in agro-forestry and food processing in the provinces around Cotabato.

"There's a cease-fire, and peace talks are ongoing," he observed optimistically.

Filipino marines on patrol on Jolo island, trying to keep peace. Marines observe cease-fire with MNLF, while occasionally confronting other Muslim extremists.

American aid officials are optimistic — or stupid — enough to fund a new program called Growth in Equity in Mindanao (GEM). It is dedicated to advising and encouraging business relationships.

"We have a very good record at reaching out to depressed areas," said GEM official Antonio Peralta. "EAGA has brought benefits."

Malaysian investors, he said, are investing nearby in projects for purifying water and using coconut waste as mattress stuffing — not exactly big-time but a hint of more to come. He sees peace as taking hold as economic incentives become more obvious.

"You've got to get these people talking about the process of disarmament," Peralta said. Now the Islamic struggle "has come to a stalemate with both sides wanting to refine their positions."

The potential for a breakdown in the truce is so enormous that the MILF is trying to improve its image.

One day, after walking with my MILF guides a couple of miles from the main road, I was introduced to El Haji Murad, the vice chairman in charge of "military affairs."

The MILF officer tossed off an unbelievable figure for the faction's size: more than 100,000 troops. Murad also is anxious to counter the bad image of MILF troops as wanton kidnappers and killers.

"Sometimes we feel we are victims of 'black propagandists,'" Murad said. "They say we are 'Islamic fundamentalists,' but there are two versions of fundamentalism. Something like terrorism is black propaganda; but if it means sticking to the teaching of Islam, we are fundamentalists."

After another 10 miles, past a village where many MILF soldiers live with their families, I arrived at the military-training center. It is commanded by Benje Mitimbang, who along with Haji Murad trained with a rebel group in Afghanistan.

"We call these men *mujahideen*," Mitimbang said, invoking the Islamic name for "freedom fighters." The Filipino armed forces, he said, are "the enemy." Mitimbang added that "we do not believe in making war."

There is no doubt, however, that he and other MILF officers are ready. "If we are forced, we will fight to the last drop of blood," he said.

Considering the absence of any government authority for miles around, it is a vow nobody should dismiss as mere political rhetoric.

Based in Manila, SOF *contributor Don Kirk specializes in coverage of Asian conflicts and politico-military issues. He is also author of* Tell It To The Dead: Stories Of A War *(about Vietnam and Cambodia).*

SHADOWS OF MANY DOUBTS

Corruption, Conniving and Perjury Within ATF

Text & Photos by James L. Pate

A controversial admission by a high-ranking Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms official about sloppy, incompetent record-keeping may mean new criminal trials for hundreds, possibly thousands, of people convicted of possessing machine guns and other weapons regulated by the National Firearms Act, say three of the nation's top attorneys practicing firearms law.

The admission, documented in a videotaped training session at headquarters, also suggests that ATF personnel may have illegally suppressed exculpatory evidence, and may have perjured themselves in sworn trial testimony to wrongly obtain National Firearms Act (NFA) convictions, the three say.

"Error Rate Between 49 And 50%"

At a training session at ATF headquarters in October 1995, Thomas B. Busey, then head of ATF's NFA Branch, custodian of registration records for machine guns and other weapons regulated by the NFA, stated that when he took over a year earlier, "our error rate was between 49 and 50%."

Busey was removed and transferred to an alcohol regulatory job when his statement was revealed through a Freedom of Information Act filed a month later by James H. Jeffries III, a Second Amendment specialist whose nationwide law practice is based in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The transcript of Busey's comments obtained by Jeffries "just proves what a shambling shithouse of an organization that ATF is," Jeffries told *SOF*. "It is an organization that is corrupt and incompetent, one in which business as usual is a 50% error rate."

> **"It is an organization that is corrupt and incompetent ... in which business as usual is a 50% error rate."**

Retired as a colonel and staff judge advocate from the Marine Corps Reserves, Jeffries spent 25 years as a Department of Justice attorney, including duty as an organized crime strike force prosecutor, before entering private practice. He has unmistakable command presence; tall, with a long face, he resembles the late actor, Fred Gwynne, and has the courtroom style of Gwynne's last film character, the judge in the movie *My Cousin Vinnie*. He has the tenacity of a pit bull and doesn't mince words.

The transcript raises two serious legal issues, said Stephen P. Halbrook of Fairfax, Virginia, an author and lawyer specializing in the Second Amendment, who also has a Ph.D. in social philosophy. One issue is the Brady Rule, a legal requirement that prosecutors and law-enforcement agencies turn over to defense attorneys any information that might be exculpatory, or helpful, to a criminal defendant. The other issue is perjury.

Halbrook believes that despite damage-control efforts by ATF, including an internal probe that exonerated Busey, the revelations will be a major factor in the pending trial of any person charged with possessing an unregistered NFA weapon, and with defendants whose similar convictions are on appeal. Some people who have exhausted their appeals may have grounds for a new trial.

Busey's replacement as head of the NFA Branch, Gary N. Schiable, tried to minimize and even deny Busey's admission. But when questioned under oath in the prosecution of an NFA case in January in Norfolk, Virginia, Schiable conceded that two NFA Branch clerks were transferred for deliberately throwing NFA registration forms in the trash to reduce their daily workload.

ATF's official registry of NFA weapons, known as the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, or NFRTR, is supposed to contain a listing, by serial number and owner's name, of all NFA-regulated weapons. Most in private ownership are machine guns, but the registry also includes sound suppressors, sawed-off shotguns, short-barreled rifles and other specified "destructive devices," such as flash-bang and other grenades.

The vast majority of NFA convictions are for unregistered machine guns. Prosecution of such cases includes official sealed certification — and usually sworn testimony from an NFA clerk — that a weapon is not registered to the defendant. Based on a search of the NFRTR and a presumption of the integrity of official government records, such evidence is a crucial element of proof in obtaining a conviction.

"What good is a search of records with a 50% error rate?" Jeffries asked. "These statements tear the presumption of accuracy to shreds. It would cause any reasonable person to cast doubt on the government's proof that a machine gun is unregistered, which is a critical element in convicting someone for possessing an unregistered weapon."

Indeed, Busey said that "when I first came in a year ago, our error rate was between 49 and 50%, so you can imagine what the accuracy of the NFRTR could be, if your error rate's 49 to 50%. The error rate now is down to below 8%, and that's total."

Busey made another stunning statement in his lecture to fellow NFA Branch personnel, one that raises the possibility of a tacit policy of perjury by ATF.

Urged To Commit Perjury

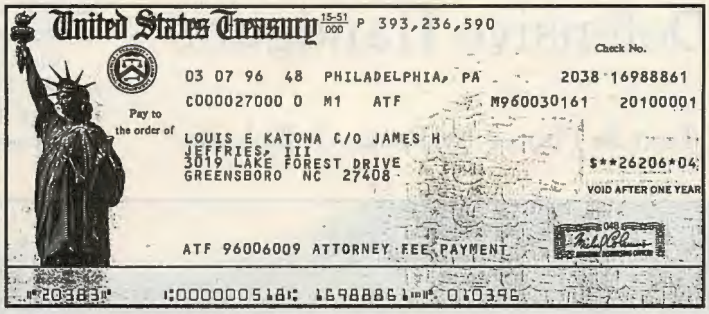
"When we testify in court," Busey told fellow ATF officials in the same October training session, "we testify that the [registry's] data base is 100% accurate. That's what we testify to, and we will *always* testify to that. As you probably well know, that may *not* be 100% true..."

"That's a serious admission," said Robert E. Sanders of Washington, D.C., a retired assistant director of ATF who, like Jeffries and Halbrook, specializes in defending people charged with federal firearms violations. "It's not even so much that the records are inaccurate, but that someone in top management would feel comfortable in telling a large gathering of employees that they should commit per-

jury in United States District Courts. It goes to the very core of integrity of a law-enforcement agency."

Sanders and Jeffries were co-counsel in winning dismissal of criminal charges against Louis Katona III (see "Miscarriage of Justice," *SOF*, April '94; and "BAT 'F'-Troop Rides Again," August '94). In that case, when an ATF inspector paid an official visit to Katona, an avid machine-gun collector, the inspector's printout from the NFRTR showed Katona possessing 40 more weapons than he actually owns.

Questions about the accuracy and reliability of the NFRTR are not new, however, nor is the issue of ATF illegally withholding Brady material from defendants. And the ineptitude of ATF's record-keeping is well documented.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VOID AFTER ONE YEAR
ATF 96006009 ATTORNEY FEE PAYMENT

Attorney Jim Jeffries, whose pit-bull tenacity surfaced evidence of shoddy record-keeping and possible perjury by ATF, poses proudly by his "Kimmel-Mobile," named for the blundering ATF agent, Lance Kimmel, who wrongly busted Louis Katona III. A judge forced the ATF to pay Jeffries' legal fees for recovering Katona's confiscated machine-gun collection — more than $26,000. Jeffries used the money — and then some — to buy the 1996 Acura. (right) Taxpayers — not the government culprits — bear the financial brunt of ATF's blunders and lies, as this check attests. Meanwhile, agents who lie and commit other misdeeds go unpunished, and the ATF refuses to admit mistakes, much less mend its illegal ways.

An internal ATF study, outlined in an internal memorandum in 1975, documented "the lack of accuracy of the National Firearms Act registration system," said a letter from the late U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh, then chairman of the Judiciary Committee, to G.R. Dickerson, then director of ATF.

"... The memorandum states that the registration system was so inaccurate that those directly responsible for administering it were concerned that innocent people might be convicted as a result of the deficiencies," said Bayh's letter, dated 15 October 1979.

"... Since the credibility of the certification is only as valid as the registration system, any problems with the system would ... compromise the certification," the letter states. "That would appear to place a major element of all prosecutions for possession under [NFA] in jeopardy, and casts doubt upon if reasonable doubt could be overcome as to whether the firearm had been registered."

"This situation is of serious concern to me in that the [ATF] memoranda appear to be [exculpatory] materials that should have been released to any defendant being prosecuted under [the NFA], under the *Brady v. Maryland* doctrine," Bayh said.

Bayh's letter was prompted by the ATF's seizure of seven firearms exhibits seized from a museum at the headquarters for the National Rifle Association of America.

As part of its defense, NRA filed a motion for the ATF to release any and all Brady material. At Dickerson's direction, ATF "actively resisted such a release ... to the point of entering a claim of executive privilege," Bayh's letter concludes.

Records Rife With Inaccuracies

ATF was later compelled to release its internal study, and failed in its efforts to forfeit the NRA museum exhibits, which a judge ruled were not NFA weapons. Even if they had been, the judge ruled, ATF's NFA records were so rife with inaccuracies that the burden of proof to establish beyond reasonable doubt that the seized weapons were not registered could not be met.

In a subsequent, unrelated criminal case involving an alleged NFA violation, attorney Halbrook was granted a court order to inspect the NFA records room at ATF headquarters. During his visit, Halbrook told *SOF*, he saw the filing area was open during a bureau Christmas party, and that anyone passing through, including ATF personnel not assigned to the NFA Branch and others not employed by ATF, had easy access to NFA records.

In November 1995, when Jeffries filed his Freedom of Information Act request for a transcript of the video documenting Busey's admissions, the ATF initially refused to release the information. It was only after receiving a legal opinion from the Department of Justice (DOJ) that Jeffries request was valid that ATF was compelled to make a full disclosure.

In releasing Busey's transcript to Jeffries, Robert L. Pritchett, chief of ATF's Disclosure Branch, noted in a cover letter that "we have enclosed a two-page statement made by Gary N. Schiable... [which] identifies comments made by Mr. Busey that can be misleading."

One issue addressed by Schiable concerned Busey's statement about flash-bang grenades, classified as "destructive devices" and subject to NFA registration. "Mr. Busey stated that the accuracy of registrations for flash grenades 'is not very good' because the registrants [primarily law-enforcement agencies] fail to report their destruction, as they are required to do."

ATF's NFA registry, Schiable's two-page memo states, "was never intended to reflect transactions, including destruction, that occur without notification to ATF. Additionally, there is no requirement in the law or regulations that registrants report the use or destruction of any registered NFA firearm to ATF."

Schiable's statement above apparently is contradicted by the FFL Newsletter, Volume I of 1992, published by the ATF: "The NFA Branch must ... be notified of the destruction so that the NFRTR may be annotated," states an article about the transfer or duplication of serial numbers on NFA weapons.

While Busey said the 49 to 50% error rate was calculated by a "quality review team," Schiable states that the claim was based on "an informal, undocumented estimate" and that Busey's statement that NFA clerks testify that the registry's data base is 100% accurate "was a misstatement of fact. I have never stated that the data base is 100% accurate nor, to the best of my knowledge, has any other of the NFA Branch personnel, including Mr. Busey."

If that's true, the Department of Justice is not taking any chances. DOJ is spending lots of money and time mailing out to defense attorneys representing clients charged with possessing unregistered NFA weapons thick packets of Brady material. Apparently concerned about past failures to meet legal obligations regarding the release of exculpatory evidence under the Brady doctrine, DOJ includes in these packets Bayh's letter, Dickerson's response, a transcript of Busey's statement and numerous other documents.

"By providing these materials, the gov ernment does not concede that either the statements made by Mr. Busey or the

Continued on page 70

ASTRA'S ANSWER FOR CONCEALED

A-75 Series Defensive Handguns

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

Within the last few years, compact handguns have almost driven full-size service sidearms into extinction in the civilian arena. Two obvious factors have been responsible: the surge of concealed-carry legislation that has been enacted throughout the country and the ban on magazines holding more than 10 rounds. While I still frequently tote a M1911 Government Model, the envelopes and package weights of some of the newer compacts is appealing. *Soldier Of Fortune* recently was provided two compact Astra A-75 pistols for test and evaluation.

Astra pistols are imported by European American Armory Corporation (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 122, Sharpes, FL 32959; phone: 800-536-4442; fax: 407-639-7006) and manufactured by Astra-Unceta y Cia, SA (Dept. SOF, Apartado 3, Guernica, Vizcaya, Spain). The firm of Esperanza y Unceta was founded in Eibar in 1908. The factory was relocated to Guernica in 1913 and expanded to produce the Campo-Giro M1913 and M1913-16 pistols for the Spanish army. In April 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, Guernica was destroyed by the German Condor Legion.

The earliest Astra pistols were little different from the tens of thousands of caliber .25 ACP and .32 ACP pocket pistols made throughout Europe during the first part of this century. Manufacture of the Astra M200, or Firecat, typical of the genre, lasted until 1967. Far more unique were the Astra M400, chambered for the 9mm Largo (9mm Bergmann-Bayard) cartridge, and the Models 600 and 800 (Condor). Both of the latter were chambered for the 9mm Parabellum round. Their uniqueness stems from the fact that while they employed relatively powerful cartridges, which traditionally are designed around locked-breech pistols, the method of operation was straight blowback, unlocked-breech. Needless to say, their recoil springs were quite heavy (and wrapped around the barrel). But these pistols were well-balanced, reliable, without excessive recoil and won many European awards for accuracy.

Another notable Astra pistol was the Model 900 series, which although it externally resembled the famous Mauser M1896 "Broomhandle," was internally completely redesigned with a removable sideplate that exposed the firing mechanism. The Astra Model 900 was undoubtedly designed for sale to the Chinese who were much enamored with the Broomhandle.

Astra stepped into the modern era with its introduction of the Model A-80, which began series production in 1981. It was a double-action type (after the first double-action shot, subsequent firing was in the

Astra A-75 series pistols provide reliability in a compact envelope at an attractive price.

single-action mode — the slide cocked the hammer during the recoil stroke). This large-frame, locked-breech pistol with a 15-round magazine was designed to meet Spanish military specifications. This quickly evolved into

CARRY

the Model A-90, which featured a relocated magazine catch/release and an ambidextrous safety lever. It was subsequently followed by the A-100. All are caliber 9mm Parabellum.

In 1992, the Astra caliber 9mm Parabellum A-70 was introduced: a compact-frame, single-action-only pistol. In 1993, the first A-75 appeared. This series is double-action with a decocker lever and no manually engaged safety. There are two other safety systems: an automatic firing pin safety, which locks the striker until the last movement of the deliberately pulled trigger; and a hammer safety, which stops the hammer in the rebounded position to prevent it from striking the firing pin should it slip during thumb cocking.

The method of operation is locked-breech, short recoil. It employs a conventional cam-dropped barrel system, with a squared-off area above the barrel chamber locking into the slide's ejection port in the manner popularized by the SIG Sauer P226.

In 1994, an aluminum-framed 9mm Parabellum and a steel-framed .45 ACP were added to the A-75 series. These were the pistols submitted to *SOF* for testing.

The A-75L weighs only 23 ounces, empty. Its all-steel counterpart tips the scales at 31 ounces. It is available in either 9mm Parabellum or .40 S&W. Our test specimen was chambered for the 9mm round. The barrel length is 3.5 inches. It has six grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.84 inches (250 mm). Overall length of the pistol is 6.5 inches. Width, at the grips, is 1.25 inches and the height is 4.75 inches.

The A-75 chambered for the .45 ACP cartridge is larger in almost all dimensions. It weighs 35 ounces, empty. The barrel length is 3.7 inches. It has six grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches (406 mm). Overall length is 6.8 inches. Width, at the grips, is 1.21 inches and the height is 5 inches.

The steel slides of both pistols are milled-finished investment castings with a black oxide finish. Early specimens had slides produced by the profile extrusion process. The .45 ACP slide is highly polished overall. The A-75L slide has a non-glare matte finish on the top and the upper-front portion of the sides. Both pistols have fixed sights with open, square-notch (which measures 0.114-inch in width) rear sights holding a white dot on each side of the notch and blade-type front sights (0.12-inch thick) with a single white dot. Sight radius of the .45 ACP model is 5.1 inches and 4.8 inches on the A-75L. The sights, especially the front blades, have extremely sharp edges, that need to be rounded-off before any "tap, rack, bang" drills are attempted.

The spring-loaded extractor, exposed on the right side of the slide in a manner popularized by the Browning High Power in 1962, pivots on an axis retaining pin. The firing pin, also spring-loaded, is held in place by a retaining pin under the rear sight and is not intended to be removed by the operator. It cannot travel fully forward until its spring-loaded safety plunger is pushed upward by a lever attached to the sear bar when the trigger is

Astra A-75 .45 ACP (top) offers almost the same envelope as the A-75L (bottom), but a far more effective cartridge with an increase in weight of only 12 ounces.

Astra A-75 .45 ACP features an ambidextrous decocking lever and grip panels with coarse stippling to enhance the gripping characteristics.

Model 200 Firecat (left), a typical .25 ACP pocket pistol, was an Astra mainstay until its production ceased in 1967. Although it externally resembled the famous Mauser M1896 "Broomhandle," the Astra Model 900 (right) was internally completely redesigned with a removable sideplate that exposed the firing mechanism.

pulled. A conventional single-coil recoil spring is wrapped around a full-length guide rod, that is solid steel in the .45 ACP version and aluminum alloy in the A-75L. The slide holds no barrel bushing as a prominent raised ring around the muzzle merely interfaces with a hole in the front of the slide, in a manner somewhat reminiscent of the Detonics .45 ACP pistol and the Colt Officers ACP. The left side of the slide is marked with the model designation, "ASTRA" and the odd transliteration "GERNIKA SPAIN."

The A-75L frame is an aluminum-alloy casting with a dark gray, hard-coat anodized finish, while that of the .45 ACP model is a mill-finished steel investment casting, highly polished with a black oxide surface. Both frames have raised checkering on the "humped back" rear strap, front strap and the squared-off front end of the trigger guard. The ridiculous fetish of recurving or squaring-off the front of the trigger guard simply won't go away. So, just ignore it and assume the proper Weaver two-hand grip without placing your index finger on the front of the trigger guard, as it only weakens the hold. The "grip-to-frame angle," defined as the angle prescribed by the front leading edge of the grip frame with a line normal (perpendicular) to the bore's axis is 15 degrees, which approximates that of the Colt M1911A1 Government Model.

The black synthetic grip panels are each held to the frame by two screws which turn directly into threaded holes in the frame. I prefer bushings of the M1911 type as they can be replaced if damaged. Repeatedly turning steel screws into an aluminum-alloy frame during disassembly and re-assembly for maintenance can result in damage to the frame itself. The grip panels on the A-75L are provided with a very fine stippling, while those of the .45 ACP model feature coarse stippling and the famous Astra escutcheon.

While the slide would lock to the rear on our .45 ACP test specimen after the last shot was fired, when the magazine was dropped the slide jumped forward into battery. If manually engaged, the slide stop lever would hold the slide rearward when the magazine was removed. This is a serious deficiency if you attempt to perform an "empty magazine change" — that is, dump the empty magazine on the ground and insert a loaded magazine as quickly as possible to get back into the fight. You say you are "programmed" to keep track of your shots and perform a tactical reload before the slide locks rearward after the last shot in the magazine sails downrange? Sorry, but it never happens this way in the real world. I have never been in a firefight where anyone knew how many rounds he had fired. When the M16's bolt locks to the

Astra M300 (bottom), available in calibers .380 ACP and .32 ACP, and the 9mm Parabellum M600 (middle) and M800 Condor (top) were all straight blowback, unlocked-breech-operated, with heavy recoil springs wrapped around the barrels.

rear or the AK's trigger is pressed and nothing happens, you reload. There are too many insane things happening in a gunfight to count the bullets going downrange.

There is a frame-mounted decocking lever on the left side of the A-75L and an ambidextrous decocking system on the .45 ACP model. Double-action, trigger-pull weights were exactly 10.25 pounds on each of the test specimens. Single-action pull weights were equally consistent at 4.75 pounds each. We use dead-weights to determine trigger-pull weights, as the spring scales most often used by the popular gun press provide erratic results.

The magazine catch/release is located on the left side of the frame, just to the rear of the trigger. When depressed, magazines fall freely away. These are single-column magazines with stamped, sheet-metal bodies. There are six indicator holes on each side of the seven-round .45 ACP magazine. The A-75L magazine holds eight rounds of 9mm Parabellum and thus has seven indicator holes on the left side of the body, or seven rounds of .40 S&W with six indicator holes on the right side of the body. The follower-spring base pads and magazine followers are also sheet-metal pressings. The .45 ACP follower is chrome-plated. The A-75L floorplate is black synthetic with a finger extension. That of the .45 ACP magazine is a stamped, sheet-metal component. The magazines can be easily disassembled for cleaning.

Astra A-75L, field-stripped.

Disassembly procedures are conventional in every regard. Remove the magazine and visually inspect the chamber to make certain it is unloaded. Rotate the hammer back to the fully cocked position. Retract the slide until its takedown notch is aligned with the slide retaining lug on the slide stop lever. Push the slide-stop lever from the right side and remove it from the frame. Push the slide group forward and off the frame. Remove the recoil spring, guide rod and barrel from the slide. Remove the grip panels. This will permit the A-75L decocking lever to be lifted off the frame. No further disassembly is recommended. After cleaning and lubrication, reassemble in the reverse order.

All testing was conducted with Jacketed Hollow Points (JHPs) from Black Hills Ammunition (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 605-348-5150 — call for the location of your nearest dealer. If there is none, Black Hills will ship to you at retail). Any handgun intended for serious social purposes must be able to feed and function reliably with expanding ammunition. Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) ball ammunition in both 9mm Parabellum and .45 ACP over-penetrates to an undesirable extent. A minimum of about 12 inches of penetration in soft tissue up to a maximum of approximately 18 inches is the desired range. That's exactly the penetration performance range designed into the superb Hornady XTP bullets used in Black Hills 147-grain 9mm Parabellum and 230-grain .45 ACP ammunition.

All firing was conducted at a range of 7 yards since most gunfights with a handgun occur at this distance and less. Using an off-hand Weaver hold, both pistols will shoot between 1 and 2 inches at this range. This is more than adequate for defensive purposes. The A-75 .45 ACP pistol shot 2 inches to the right, with correct elevation. The rear sight on these pistols can be drifted in its dovetail to adjust windage. With 147-grain bullets the A-75L shoots about 2 inches high. It was undoubtedly zeroed at the factory with lighter bullets. Handgun ammunition with lighter bullets will, without exception, shoot lower than loads with heavier bullets, regardless of the respective velocities. This was demonstrated during classic experiments on this phenomenon conducted by the late General Julian S. Hatcher.

Both pistols exhibited negligible perceived-recoil and flawless reliability during the several thousands of rounds fired through them by *SOF* test personnel. With a suggested retail price of only $444.30 each, including one magazine and a plastic storage box, and most often selling for considerably less, the robust and compact Astra A-75 series represents an attractive bargain and an excellent choice for those who carry concealed.

ASTRA A-75 Series Specifications

Calibers: ..... 9mm Parabellum, .40 S&W and .45 ACP.
Operation: ..... Locked-breech, short-recoil, semiautomatic, conventional, cam-dropped barrel system, with a squared-off area above the barrel chamber locking into the slide's ejection port, double-action with a decocker lever and no manually engaged safety.
Two safety systems: .. An automatic firing pin safety and a hammer safety.
Weight, empty: ..... A-75L: 23 ounces; A-75 .45 ACP: 35 ounces.
Length, overall: ..... A-75L: 6.5 inches; A-75 .45 ACP: 6.8 inches.
Height: ..... A-75L: 4.75 inches; A-75 .45 ACP: 5 inches.
Width, at the grips: .... A-75L: 1.25 inches; A-75 .45 ACP: 1.21 inches.
Barrel: ..... Six-groove with right-hand twist; A-75L: 1:9.84 inches (250 mm); A-75 .45 ACP: 1:16 inches (406 mm).
Barrel length: ..... A-75L: 3.5 inches; A-75 .45 ACP: 3.7 inches.
Magazine: ..... 7-round (.40 S&W and .45 ACP) and 8-round (9mm Parabellum), single-column, detachable box-type with removable base pad and floorplate.
Sights: ..... Blade-type front sight, 0.12-inch thick, with a single white dot; open, square-notch (which measures 0.114 inch width) rear sight with a white dot on each side of the notch. Rear sight dovetailed to slide; front sight integral.
Finish: ..... Black oxide on steel components; hard-coat dark gray anodizing on A-75L aluminum-alloy frame.
Furniture: ..... Black synthetic grip panels.
Suggested price: ..... $444.30, complete with one magazine and plastic storage box.
Manufacturer: ..... Astra-Unceta y Cia, SA, Dept. SOF, Apartado 3, Guernica, Vizcaya, Spain.
Importer: ..... European American Armory Corporation, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 122, Sharpes, FL 32959; phone: 800-536-4442; fax: 407-639-7006.
T&E summary: ..... Reliable, compact and attractively priced.

EXCLUSIVE

BIG SKY SURRENDER

by James L. Pate

12th Hour Negotiations Avert A Waco

The longest armed law-enforcement siege in modern U.S. history — the 81-day Freemen standoff in Garfield County, Montana — ended without violence. The FBI had learned from Waco.

Unfortunately for the public, the mainstream media has not.

That night, when FBI Director Louis Freeh claimed credit for his bureau, the scribbling drones duly recorded his version unchallenged. To his credit, Freeh did make a reference to the CAUSE Foundation. Few reporters cared enough to ask for details.

> **"The FBI had learned from Waco. Unfortunately, ... the mainstream media has not."**

The standoff began 25 March, when FBI agents lured LeRoy Schweitzer, the group's self-taught legal strategist, and another Freeman, away from the others and arrested them on federal charges that include mail and bank fraud, and passing millions of dollars worth of bogus checks (see "Freeh's Men vs. The Freemen," July '96).

News reports parroted the government's erroneous claims that no deals were made. One would think the Freemen just gave up.

Had media darling Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center negotiated their peaceful surrender, the lilting, left-wing law-enforcement sycophant would have been the toast of the talk show circuit. But the CAUSE Foundation is politically incorrect. After all (tisk-tisk), the non-profit legal services group has represented members of the Ku Klux Klan — and 35 black Davidians — based on the odd notion that the Constitution is for everyone.

"I'm not really upset" about not getting due credit, said David M. Hollaway, who played a major role in resolving the standoff. He is associate director of CAUSE, based in Black Mountain, North Carolina. "The fact that Freeh said ... 'CAUSE Foundation' on television must have had Morris Dees rolling around on the floor having a stroke. I think the FBI was amazed that we were able to do everything so quickly."

A peaceful outcome was doubtful when CAUSE was called in for one last try. The FBI had decided to end the stalemate within days — one way or the other. After Hollaway and CAUSE Director Kirk Lyons got the Freemen to agree to move their battle with the feds to a courtroom, one member's anger nearly turned violent.

That averted, Lyons and Hollaway got the Justice Department and the Freemen to agree on a deal in which the 16 hold-outs promised to come out. The deal nearly fell apart at the last minute because of a reckless stunt by Garfield County Sheriff Charles Phipps, whose interference added another tense day.

After hearing of Schweitzer's arrest on 25 March, near the 960-acre Clark homestead 30 miles west of Jordan, Lyons called U.S. Attorney Sherry S. Matteucci's office in Montana, offering to help. Lyons had earlier played a key role in obtaining legal counsel for Branch Davidian leader David Koresh and Koresh's lieutenant, Steve Schneider, during the Waco siege.

> **"The [Freemen] guns came back out. Emmett Clark just went nuclear."**

On 30 March, Lyons got a call from FBI Special Agent Gary Callahan. Lyons emphasized that CAUSE was trusted by the Freemen and might be able to end the standoff peacefully.

"Our purpose for offering this assistance ... is to save lives," Lyons told Callahan in a follow-up letter. "We do not intend to represent these people after resolution of the situation. ... We propose that a negotiation assistance team composed of myself, Lourie A. Salley III and Dave Hollaway come to the FBI command post."

Days passed, and then weeks. The Freemen refused to communicate directly with the FBI, referring to them as "foreign agents." Various negotiation intermediaries came and went without success: Montana state Senator Karl Ohs, Colorado state Senator Charles Duke and retired Green Beret officer James "Bo" Gritz, who had been instrumental in convincing white separatist Randy Weaver to surrender in a disastrous standoff in which Weaver's wife and son were slain by federal agents.

Through it all, the FBI negotiators "would call us from time to time," Lyons said, and ask questions about sometimes archaic common law terminology used by the Freemen: What's a grand jury presentment? What does *quorum nobus* mean? Why are they so upset about fringe on the flag?

"We assumed by 30 or 40 days into the siege that we would not be called in," Lyons told *SOF*. As highly vocal critics of FBI conduct in the Weaver and Waco cases, CAUSE "were the last people the FBI would want."

On 6 June, the FBI called and said the Freemen wanted to talk to the CAUSE attorneys. On Sunday, 9 June, Lyons, Hollaway and Salley flew to Billings, rented a vehicle and drove to Jordan. Salley, not a CAUSE staffer, was included because he is a former police chief, now an attorney in Lexington, South Carolina, and an ardent advocate of the U.S. Constitution.

Blessed Be The Peacemakers

On Monday, 10 June, the three-man CAUSE team met the FBI negotiators, led by agent Gary Noesner, who was assisted by agent Duane Fusele. They were briefed on the people holed up on the Clark ranch and the charges against them. Assistant U. S. Attorney Jim Seykora presented Lyons a written agreement in which CAUSE pledged not to talk to the press during the negotiation process, not to become engaged as legal counsel for the Freemen and to waive attorney-client privilege for discussions with them.

That done, they met Robin Mont-

gomery, head of the FBI's Critical Incident Response Group, or CIRG, created in the aftermath of Waco. As CIRG's Special Agent in Charge, Montgomery commanded negotiators and behavioral scientists on one hand, and tactical teams on the other.

David M. Hollaway

David M. Hollaway

Lyons and Hollaway described Montgomery as "a no-shit guy. We got along with him immediately."

"If there's anything I can do to make your plan happen, you tell me," Lyons quoted Montgomery as saying. "I will make sure you do not get impeded by bureaucracy, or anybody with an attitude. You come straight to me."

After lunch, Lyons' group was escorted to Justus Township, where they were met by Edwin Clark, a Vietnam veteran whose grandfather homesteaded the tract in 1912. Clark told the CAUSE team that he would not shoot anyone, that he wore a pistol because Freemen hard-liners criticized him for not doing so. He reached to pull it out of its holster to show Hollaway and Lyons that it was unloaded.

"Don't do that," Hollaway cautioned. "Snipers might get the wrong idea."

The first meeting began with prayer. One of the first questions by the Freemen was whether any of the mediators had cigarettes. Lyons, not a cigarette smoker, offered two large Churchill cigars. The cigar tobacco was rolled into cigarettes.

Despite media reports to the contrary, the CAUSE intermediaries noted that the Freemen had an ample supply of toilet paper and food. Daniel Peterson's wife, Lyons said, "made a cake for everybody. ... She had all the ingredients, but she said she used up the last of her walnuts."

Negotiating For Peace

"We did a lot of talking," Lyons said. "Dave [Hollaway] was real good about cutting through bullshit ... We considered Edwin [Clark] the friendliest, and then we had the hard

David M. Hollaway

John B. Nelson

David M. Hollaway

Center: Freeman Ralph Clark, 65, takes a last, long, wistful look at the ranch where he was born, homesteaded by his father in 1912. When Clark, his brother, his son and grandson stepped off the property and into FBI custody, everyone wept — even the agents. Clockwise from bottom left: Shortly before his arrest, Freeman leader and guru LeRoy Schweitzer conducts a class at Clark ranch; Dale Jacobi (white shirt) faces camera. Note wall ornaments of hangman's noose and T. Rex jawbone. Leader Rodney Skurdal signs negotiation document at Clark Ranch as standoff draws to close. Negotiator Kirk Lyons gathers flag from Freeman Russell Dean Landers, while negotiator Lourie Salley III assists from atop trailer. After arrest, Freeman Rodney Skurdal is helped into van by FBI agents. By agreement, Freemen were not handcuffed.

cases: [former Canadian policeman Dale] Jacobi, [former Marine and White House guard Rodney] Skurdal" and Russell Dean Landers, a tax evader wanted on fraud charges in Colorado.

"We determined that a letter from Schweitzer telling them to come out would probably work," Lyons said. "They said that if they saw something that they recognized as LeRoy Schweitzer's handwriting, saying it's time to take this to court, then they'd come out."

The CAUSE trio left the property to talk with FBI negotiators. Agents Noesner and Fusele said they wanted something in writing. They'd have to sell any deal to their bosses, and it would help to have a signed document from the Freemen to indicate good faith.

While the CAUSE team was being debriefed about the proposal, CNN reported — incorrectly — that there was already a deal to end the standoff within 24 hours. No deal yet existed. Negotiators later learned that Freeman Russ Landers had a cell phone which, unknown to his colleagues, he would use to call CNN at Claude Saylor's nearby ranch.

The intermediaries returned to the Freemen headquarters. A signed pledge was no problem, the Freemen leaders said, but a big hitch developed: The FBI would have to promise Edwin Clark safe passage to personally confer with Schweitzer, Lyons recounted, "so they could keep faith ... and not do anything behind [his] back."

Central to this demand was the safekeeping of Schweitzer's files and legal library, all considered crucial to defending their case.

The Freemen drafted a proposal with the new condition. It stated that if Clark was allowed free passage to and from the Yellowstone County Jail in Billings to confer with Schweitzer, and Schweitzer agreed, the standoff would end.

The declaration further stipulated that within 24 hours of Clark's safe return, the Freemen would either come out as "belligerent claimants," or they would tell the FBI there was no deal and agents would have to act accordingly.

It was while drafting this document that the 81-day standoff came closest to bloodshed. Jon Barry Nelson, a 20-something hothead who had sneaked on the property after the standoff began, walked in as the resolution terms were being discussed. Unaware of the conversation thus far, Nelson "blew up," Lyons said. "He apparently thought we were ... getting ready to sign the surrender."

Kirk D. Lyons

FBI Special Agent in Charge Robin Montgomery, left, celebrates peaceful end of standoff with CAUSE Foundation negotiator Dave Hollaway. It was Hollaway whose skillful arguments persuaded jailed leader LeRoy Schweitzer to give final approval to surrender agreement, and Montgomery whose cool head and patience provided time and space for a peaceful outcome.

Under the impression that Hollaway was to blame, Nelson, wearing a holstered pistol, focused his rage on the wiry former Green Beret medic. "I was really worried," Hollaway said. "He said let's get it on right now. I thought he might jerk that pistol and go to work."

Edwin Clark, backed by Landers, stepped between Nelson and Hollaway and escorted Nelson from the room. Calmed down, Nelson returned and also signed the document. Now Lyons and his partners had to convince the FBI to sign off on the revised deal. It was late in the day.

"He said let's get it on right now. I thought he might jerk that pistol and go to work."

"We were told that we would go back in around 1 o'clock the next afternoon," said Lyons, "that it would take that long to get approval from Washington. We figured they would spend the rest of the night and half the next day lobbying for this. We sold it to Gary [Noesner] and Duane [Fusele]. And Gary and Duane had to sell it to Robin Montgomery, who had the ultimate responsibility of getting the director's approval."

According to several FBI sources, both in Montana and at headquarters, Montgomery jumped the entire chain of command and called Freeh at home that night.

Blessed Be The Flexible

According to these sources, the conversation between Montgomery and Director Freeh went something like this:

Freeh: *Let me get this straight. You want to take a guy we've had under siege for 70-some days, and spent a ton of money trying to arrest; put him in a bureau plane and fly him to the jail we want to put him in, have him talk to his cohort; put him back in the plane and take him back under a guarantee of safe conduct by the Justice Department and put him back under siege again. Am I getting this straight?*

Montgomery: That's the plan.

Freeh: *I'll get the plane. It'll be there in the morning.*

That scotched plans for a leisurely Tuesday morning, Lyons told *SOF*. "We had approval by 7 o'clock. We had to rush. ... Some of the Freemen were sure that Edwin was never coming back. So we promised that we would not leave his side."

The CAUSE team and Clark drove past the location formerly occupied by the press, forced back by the FBI, to a one-room church at the end of the road that had been occupied as a forward command post. The four then transferred to an FBI vehicle that included FBI negotiator Duane Fusele. They drove to the dirt airstrip in Jordan.

When they landed in Billings 30 minutes later and pulled into a closed hangar, it was quickly surrounded by a mob of photographers, who peered through windows and shouted questions. FBI agents covered the windows with sheets. Two vans were waiting, one a decoy. The vans roared out of the hangar, headed in different directions. After a circuitous drive around Billings, the negotiation party arrived at the jail. The group was searched and led to the gym, where they soon met Schweitzer.

"He was very emaciated" from a hunger strike, Lyons said. "He was thin as a rail. ... He had a white beard. He was wearing" jail

clothing. "He looked unhealthy."

At first, Schweitzer was adamant that the standoff continue. Hollaway waited outside while Lyons and Salley talked to the former crop duster. After 30 minutes, Salley came out, frustrated, declaring Schweitzer "a nut."

Hollaway went in, he said, and Schweitzer "would spout out all this gibberish about the right side and the left side of the courtroom, and the fringe on the flag. Essentially, we painted him into a corner, from a psychological standpoint. I asked him if his evidence and his law books and papers proved ... that what they were doing ... was legal. He said 'absolutely.'

"Now, I said, the problem we had after Waco was that ... Koresh ... complicated things by getting himself killed and all of the evidence burned up. ... Your concern is that this evidence be preserved. But if the ... FBI has to assault the ranch, then your evidence may not survive.

"But if you can prove your case, then we have to preserve the evidence," Hollaway argued. "He's a real smart guy. But ... he's crazy. He realized that if he said no, then it would have been a tacit admission that his theory of law was wrong ... that there was no way to win."

It worked. Schweitzer tape recorded a statement urging his followers to come out. Only one hurdle remained, to get the FBI to agree to written terms of resolution. A key part was a guarantee that state Senator Ohs take custody of the Freemen evidence, in the same manner that the Texas Rangers cared for Waco evidence.

The group flew back to Jordan. It looked as if the standoff would be over in another 24 hours.

Very Bad Timing

On Wednesday, though, the resolution nearly fell apart because of a stupid stunt by Garfield County Sheriff Charlie Phipps. Dean Clark, 29, was the son and grandson of two Freemen. His dad, Richard Clark, was already imprisoned on state charges related to the Freemen. Dean's grandfather, Emmett, was still on the ranch.

When Emmett Clark, and his brother, Ralph, lost title to the property at a foreclosure auction 18 months earlier, Dean Clark bought a portion. Eager to begin plowing 2,000 acres of wheat, Dean prevailed upon Sheriff Phipps to get a state court order allowing him on to the property. Phillips led a convoy of farm machinery to a roadblock where he knew there were no FBI agents — only members of the Montana Highway Patrol. Seeing the state court order, the troopers stepped aside. Soon, Dean Clark was plowing wheat.

"It was just like kicking a beehive over," Lyons said. "The [Freemen] guns came back out. Emmett Clark just went nuclear."

The CAUSE team arrived at the ranch to find their work nearly ruined. FBI agents rushed around, trying to salvage a deal on the verge of collapse. Agents Noesner and Fusele were talking to Edwin Clark, trying to convince him that the feds had nothing to do with the confrontation. Hollaway asked the FBI boss, Robin Montgomery, what had happened.

Montgomery explained, Hollaway said, then told him, "This is fucked. Unfuck it."

Hollaway, Lyons and Salley hurried to the Freemen house and tried to calm everyone. Gradually, tensions began to ease as the tractor convoy was escorted away. Lyons told them he'd been able to contact Wyoming attorney Gerry Spence, who had successfully defended Randy Weaver. While Spence would not agree to defend the Freemen, he promised to visit Edwin Clark in jail. It was something.

Lyons also had brought a carton of Marlboros. FBI negotiators told the CAUSE team not to take cigarettes to the Freemen, but said they could have cigarettes "for personal use." So agents "looked the other way," Lyons said, when he took in the carton. Lighting up, the smokes visibly eased Freemen agitation.

Grateful, several Freemen dug in their pockets for money to pay for the cigarettes. Lyons politely declined. "Will you take a check?" Rodney Skurdal asked.

Grateful, several Freemen dug in their pockets for money to pay for the cigarettes. Lyons politely declined. "Will you take a check?" Rodney Skurdal asked, grinning. Everyone laughed. The intermediaries left to calm the FBI: Hollaway walked up to Montgomery, saluted smartly and, with a smirk, said, "Beg to report, sir, the situation is unfucked."

Such candor played a big part in the ultimate success of the team effort by CAUSE and the FBI, Lyons and Hollaway said.

David M. Hollaway

Blessed be the Peacemakers: FBI negotiation team, from left: chief negotiator Gary Noesner, Mike McComas, Duane Fusele, Dennis Braden, and behavioral scientist Tom Neer, photographed as an end to the standoff was in progress.

"The FBI people ... were first-rate," Lyons said. "They dealt in good faith. We caught some heat from some of the SWAT guys who ... were pissed off about some of the stuff that we had said about ... Waco. They were obviously touchy about ... having been called jack-booted thugs."

On the other hand, Lyons said, the FBI "learned the lessons from Waco ... I think that a gentleman should ... be willing to compliment an antagonist when he does the right thing, because you want to encourage it. They told us very frankly that they had screwed up at Waco."

The Fruits Of Good Faith

Thursday, the final day, "was pretty intense emotionally," said Lyons. State Senator Ohs had agreed to take custody of

Continued on page 70

Rebellion In Zu

SANDF Battles *Civil-Warlords*

Two South African air force helicopters were readied for launch at dawn with a 28-man Fire Force. A quick-reaction group carrying 5.56mm carbines and 12-gauge combat shotguns already had infiltrated under cover of darkness. The target, in southern Natal province, was a cluster of houses containing Zulu rebels violently opposed to the ruling African National Congress (ANC). These tribesmen would be armed with homemade but lethal pistols, rifles and shotguns — or Kalashnikov assault rifles smuggled from Mozambique.

As the early rays of the sun appeared, the reaction force was in position to halt entry and prevent escape during the raid. The Oryxes (upgraded Puma helicopters) were loaded and ready. Then came an order: Delay for 30 minutes. A television screen at the tactical headquarters showed a thick blanket of mist over the target.

Orbiting some 5 kilometers from the target, "Seeker" — a South African-made, remotely piloted vehicle (RPV) — transmitted real-time color TV images with infrared enhancement. Linked by jam-proof, microwave signals, the operator "piloted" the small aircraft from a computer console here at Margate Airport on the southern coast of Natal.

A tent-town near the airstrip is home base for Group 10, an integrated (racially as well as institutionally) South African police-army-air force unit. In one of the tents, a tactical-intel team filtered through additional information transmitted from an OP in the foothills about 15 kilometers from the target: There was movement around the cluster of houses.

Then, a radio report from a roadblock near the target: A suspicious car had been halted. In the trunk were two firearms and a grenade; worse, the driver had a cellular phone. The roadblock NCOIC couldn't be sure whether a call had been made as the car was halted.

Perhaps the secret raid was compromised.

"We can't wait," said Lieutenant Colonel Mike de Goede, a South African National Defense Force (SANDF) officer with much experience in counterinsurgency warfare. "Let's get this show on the road!"

Eight minutes later we were off. I tagged along with de Goede in the command helicopter, a German-made BK117, that would drop a marker flare next to the target. The Oryxes would rush in behind us and unload their troops. Backed by infantry

Police Reaction Unit, backed by infantrymen, storms a Natal province hut looking for rebels with illegal weapons. Police raiders carry 9mm UZI submachine guns for close-in work.

Air force Oryx helicopter descends in pickup of Group 10 soldiers and police following raid in Natal. Oryx is an upgraded version of the Puma military helicopter.

luland

Text & Photos by Al J. Venter

muscle, elite police officers with submachine guns and flak jackets would make the arrests and confiscate illegal weapons.

From where we hovered at about 600 feet — with the Oribi Gorge dead ahead — I could just make out Port Shepstone to our right, and behind, the turquoise Indian Ocean.

This successful op occurred in mid-March. It was part of "Operation Jambo 3": an effort to stabilize Natal, an area roughly the size of Portugal, against guerrilla warfare that threatens to provoke a blood bath.

Politics, Tribes And Warlords

There already are 60-70 deaths a week in Natal. The causes of the instability there are an ugly mix of national politics, internecine rivalry between the Zulu and Xhosa tribes, opportunistic warlords, and savage criminal gangs.

The Zulus, the largest ethnic group in South Africa, were cut out of national political power by the ANC and President Nelson Mandela. They increasingly have grown restless on their turf in KwaZulu, located in northeast Natal. A Johannesburg massacre of Zulu marchers by armed guards at an ANC headquarters, just before the 1994 national elections, ultimately would thwart Mandela's attempts to woo Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini's political support. The king's ill-advised dalliance with Mandela, in turn, undermined his status among Zulus.

The majority of the Zulu tribe supports the ANC's rival, the Inkatha Freedom Party. The IFP is led by Dr. Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the dominant politician in Natal who rose to power during *apartheid*. On the other side of the coin, the Xhosa tribe staunchly supports the ANC. The Xhosas, whose homeland is the Transkei state in south-central Natal, are the second-largest tribe in South Africa. And they despise the Zulus. The two have been enemies for centuries. In a way, it's an earlier version of what has been happening in Rwanda.

South African infantrymen traverse steep hillside. Natal's rugged terrain makes it difficult for military and police vehicles, ideal for rebels and criminals.

While security forces must contend with powerful animosity between the IFP and the ANC, and the Zulus and Xhosas, they also are dealing with vicious criminals. "They use the unstable social, economic and political climate to their own advantage," army Lt. Col. de Goede explained.

Some of the gangs are politicized; others, only to a point.

Two ANC gangs in the Port Shepstone area recently got in a squabble. One gang was politically moderate; the other was associated with the SA Communist Party. After the radicals received a few bloody knocks from their former comrades, they allied themselves with an Inkatha Zulu group. "Ideologies consequently went over the *kraal* [corral] fence," one of the army officers said.

Because of the high rate of unemployment in Natal, some of the gangs are huge. Numbers may range from a handful of idle teenagers to thousands of dangerous men. The "Senhores," a gang in the Murchison district, a few minutes flying time from where we were operating, are 2,000 strong.

"Political motives often hide behind criminal opportunism, and vice versa," de Goede explained. "Politicians use hit men to get rid of their rivals. That's why we had massacres like the one at Shoboshobani last Christmas, when 19 [ANC supporters] were shot."

Some say it was a contract job planned by politicians. "But that would be hard to prove since the people who organize

(above) South African soldier inspects homemade 12-gauge shotgun seized with other illegal weapons during Group 10 raid in Natal. Shotgun's barrel was made from water pipe. (right) South African army officers inspect haul from Group 10 raid: homemade firearms, shotguns, bolt-action rifles, and Kalashnikov and (South African military) Vektor assault rifles. Infantry officer holds a battered — but functional — 7.62x25mm, Soviet PPSh-41 submachine gun with drum magazine.

such massacres aren't the people who carry them out," de Goede said.

What is indisputable is that people hired for the work were well trained. Most had solid military background and experience.

Although the colonel would not comment, others have confirmed that many in the command structure of these gangs had been trained in the old South African Defense Force. (Ten years ago I went on an operation in southern Angola with members of the SADF's Zulu Battalion. Much of it was conventional fighting; these black troops proved themselves capable of mixing it with the best.)

"These are men who understand the basics of insurgency warfare," de Goede said. "They use their knowledge competently, as we have seen."

Shoboshobani at Izingolweni, only a half hour by road from Port Shepstone, was not the first of the massacres. Ten people were killed in 1993 at Murchison. A year later there were killings at Mfchunini when, over two nights, ANC cadres murdered 28 IFP supporters. There have been others.

Nor is that the end of the story. A senior police officer who handles intelligence ops along the South Coast told me that he had recently received reliable information that the ANC was planning a reprisal raid on an IFP settlement for the Shoboshobani killings. It was his job to try to prevent it.

"But it is not always possible because of the outside gangs that are mostly used for that sort of job," the officer explained. "They come into this area, do their work and then get out again, often the same night."

(above) Technicians prepare "Seeker" remotely piloted vehicle for recon flight prior to Group 10 mission. These aircraft, with loiter time of up to six hours, were built near Pretoria by Kentron company in conjunction with an Israeli RPV project. (left) Photo transmitted by South African RPV shows five huts and three other structures — possible targets for police-military raid in "Operation Jambo 3." The small, unmanned aircraft was flying at an altitude of 5,839 feet, at a range of 1,900 meters (6,230 feet) from target.

Serious Consequences

Among the commanders in Operation Jambo 3 are such veterans of the border war as Col. Jan Hougaard, now commanding Group 9 in Pietermaritzburg; Col. Eddie Viljoen of Group 27, in Eshowe; and Group 10's de Goede, who fought more unconventional battles in Angola than any other man I know.

All of these men understand the nature and implications of guerrilla warfare in southern Africa. They fear the consequences, for their own country, of this one.

In March, de Goede was faced with a developing problem which some already described as a "proto-civil war." It is formidable challenge, and a politically sensitive situation. The opposition is not called "the enemy"; rebels and criminals are referred to as Potential Military Opponents, or PMOs.

Operation Jambo 3 requires top-notch intelligence work. Covert recons, which elite South African units have long mastered, sometimes are not enough. Thus, the identification of raid targets now is confirmed by the eye-in-the-sky RPVs. And there is the matter of the law: An elite Police Reaction Unit (PRU) is sent out regularly with the troops as part of the Fire Force. They are responsible for any arrests. But unlike the townships around Johannesburg, the unrest in Natal is very different from previous security-force operations in other parts of the country.

It often comes down to sweaty men beating the bush. The black and white South African troops operate in Natal's rolling hills and valleys, lush and brilliantly green after heavy rains. The terrain is exacting, hard on both men and vehicles. The Natal coast is a bad country in which to deploy troops; it was described by Lt. Col. de Goede as "foot-and-vehicle-unfriendly." It sometimes takes his men

South African soldiers, wearing Kevlar helmets and armed with Vektor R4 5.56mm assault rifles, climb into Oryx helicopter for air-mobile mission in Natal. Safety procedures require weapons remain unloaded, stocks folded, and pointed down during much of flight.

four or five hours to cover 500 meters climbing up or down a thickly forested ravine, just to scare up one suspect in hiding.

Although it has taken time, security forces gradually pieced together the nature and structure of some of the politico-criminal elements at work in Natal. It shows a remarkably coherent pattern.

By March, three "guerrilla base areas" had been identified.

All are commanded by "warlords," a term that recently entered the lexicon in South Africa. These men likely have had army training. The bases were situated in "safe areas," where troublemakers secretly plan, train, and store weapons, supplies and booty. Some men who commit serious crimes elsewhere often found refuge there, as well.

These three known bases were near Tugela Ferry (where it is unsafe to drive at night); Nxutu Babanango, north of Eshowe; and Izingolweni, near Port Shepstone. Strategically they covered the Natal midlands as well as the north and the south coasts. Security at all is tight.

Although numbers are vague, it is believed that each of these base areas has held about 1,000 men, an *amabutu*, divided into 10 *impis* of 100 men. Discipline is traditional and strict. The authorities know that some of the training is provided by hired white men, mostly disaffected former members of SADF special forces.

On their turfs, the warlords are all-powerful. They do not fear the government; dozens of policemen have been killed. But they are wary of the military.

"The sad thing is that we have picked up some of these people for suspicion of murder and other crimes and have then had to let them go," one frustrated police officer complained. "Warlords seldom do their own dirty work; they pay others. So what can we charge them with?"

He continued: "Then we have the problem of intimidation. There is a ring of stubborn silence that is often almost impossible to crack. How can you tell a [crime] witness that he will be safe after he has testified? These criminals send somebody around to their families. 'Testify,' they say, 'and we'll kill your eldest son, or your mother.' You can't fight a threat of that sort. It's final. And it runs through the whole society."

As elsewhere in Africa, such as anarchic Somalia, it was the growing insecurity of daily life in Natal that led to the rise of "warlords": Frightened people tended to gather in large groups for their own protection when factional strife became serious. Ruthless leaders emerged.

Constitutional Dilemma

I asked Lt. Col. de Goede: What is the political allegiance of these various factions — ANC or Inkatha, Zulu or Xhosa?

"It's not so simple as that," he replied. "Obviously Zulus owe loyalty to Buthelezi, though clearly there are Zulus who support Mandela. The media say otherwise, but there's no escaping it. [But] Buthelezi has a huge power base."

Further complicating the grim situation is the state of the civilian police. A senior officer told me that, because of poor salaries and galloping inflation, police at all levels were leaving the force as they did in 1978-9. There's a massive exodus, he said, and it won't be long before the nation starts to feel it.

Most of the police and SANDF officers I spoke with agreed, strictly speaking, that the army and the air force should not be used for operations *within* South Africa. The constitution clearly states that the purpose of the military is to protect the borders from any outside threat and to give *humanitarian* help within them.

Internal stability is supposed to be the exclusive responsibility of the police. But ongoing violence in places like Natal and the Johannesburg townships have determined otherwise.

Police and soldiers fan out across field moments after South African air force Oryx helicopter touches down. Raiders look for wanted criminals or anti-government rebels — any of whom might be armed with homemade firearms or Kalashnikov rifles smuggled in from Mozambique.

The job is as big as both organizations — police and military — together. Some say it is bigger.

Major Ivan Steytler, who runs a military-intelligence office in Pietermaritzburg, said the manpower problem has become critical. He has two sections — 24 men — to patrol the biggest valley in the region, Edenvale, which is 25 kilometers long and has several million residents.

Further, a French general who is a specialist on insurgencies visited the Natal's south coast earlier this year. He was shown that operational area by Air Force Col. Bran Haasbroek. The French officer said his impression was that the problem in South Africa had reached military proportions. It was no longer a matter for the police alone.

Members of elite Police Reaction Unit, during lull in Group 10's ops, gather 'round for "continuing education" session.

Homemade Vs. High-Tech

There intentionally is no set pattern to the raids launched from Margate Airport

Continued on page 63

OPERATIONS ORDER

17th Annual *Soldier Of Fortune* — *Fighting Firearms* Convention and Exposition: 18-22 Sept. '96, Las Vegas

1. SITUATION

a. **Enemy forces:** Target rich environment.
Weather and terrain: Favorable to airborne, small unit and mech operations.

b. **Friendly forces:** Locals are cooperative (but remember to tip well).
Next higher unit: Omega Group HQ.
Fire support: *Soldier Of Fortune* 3-Gun Match, 17-20 Sept. '96. Submachine Gun Match, 19-21 Sept. '96

c. **Attachments and detachments:** Command and Control Group: Las Vegas Sands Convention Center. Registration commences 1200 hrs 18 Sept. '96. 1st Airborne Div. coordinates airborne operations.

2. MISSION

Convention personnel infiltrate Las Vegas, Nevada, to continue the proud tradition of previous 16 *SOF* Conventions, engage in the easy camaraderie of paratroopers and veterans, tell war stories and commit acts of heroism and bravery that grown men should have enough sense to avoid.

3. EXECUTION

a. **Concept of operation:** Omega Gp main element deploys from Peoples Republic of Boulder to establish headquarters at Hacienda Hotel, Las Vegas, with further deployment to Sands Convention Center by 18 Sept. '96.
Forward element will infiltrate by motorcycle in a diversionary action through Colorado, Utah and Arizona 15-17 Sept. '96.

b. **Other missions:** *Soldier Of Fortune* Firepower Demonstration (Field Marshall Kokalis); *SOF* Exposition (3-day pass for all convention personnel); seminars; convention T-shirt and commemorative insignia.

c. **Coordinating instructions:** Transmit coupon below with $125 U.S. to Omega Gp HQ ASAP.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

a. **Billeting:** Limited availability due to unexpected closing of Sands Hotel for demolition. Lodging has been reserved at Hacienda Hotel, a luxury hotel approx 5 km from Sands Convention Center (Tower rooms $88 + tax, single and double; garden rooms $78 + tax. Add $10/additional person. 800-634-6713). A limited number of rooms have been reserved at Super 8 Motel, 4250 Koval, Las Vegas, NV 89109. (approx 1 km from Sands Convention Center; tel. 702-794-0888). $40/Sun thru Thur; $45/Fri and Sat, plus tax. Must mention *SOF* Convention to qualify for special rate.

b. **Arms and ammunition:** Weapons in locked cases allowed in Super 8. Check with other hotels.

c. **Uniform and equipment:** Surprise us. We're getting a little jaded.

d. **Wounded and prisoners:** Special Forces Standard Operating Procedure (take their Rolex).

5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL

a. **Signal:** Omega Gp Tel: 800-800-7630 Fax: 303-444-5617 e-mail *convention@sofmag.com*

b. **Command:** Robert K. Brown, LTC, USAR, Ret., Airborne Mission Commander.

I'll be there, LTC Brown. Put me on the manifest.

___ Check or money order for $125 enclosed.

Charge $125 to my MC/VISA,

Card no. _____ Expires _____

Signature _____

No refund after 15 Aug 96.

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. no. _____

City _____ St _____

ZIP _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

T-shirt size M L XL XXL (circle one) _____

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REBELLION IN ZULULAND

Continued from page 61

under Operation Jambo 3.

"Sometimes the men go in at three in the morning; at other times, at three in the afternoon," said Haasbroek. "We don't work by the clock."

I left the group after lunch on my last day there. Two hours later Group 10 hit a position 10 kilometers from their base. It was believed to be a gun factory. Sure enough, 12 weapons were seized. All were made by "Dum Dum" Dumisani, a specialist in the craft.

Though they look primitive, some of his guns are masterpieces of ingenuity, with detachable barrels with locking pins and sliding bolts. All had triggers that cocked like any good revolver. These weapons fire anything from a 12-gauge shotgun round to 7.62mm rifle ammunition.

"One-inch water piping is very popular for making improvised shotguns," said Col. Haasbroek. "It fires quite a neat pattern at short range."

Some of the "pistols" that I had handled used 7.62mm rifle cartridges. The recoil must have been hell on the wrist.

Not all Group 10 raids are successful. It is not always easy to go in and hit a particular target by helicopter and vehicle: Some strong points have lookouts with binoculars in tall trees. They can see helicopters kilometers away. Sometimes the "PMOs" will send women and children down to the main road to throw stones at passing cars.

"That immediately splits the security forces and weakens our effort. They aren't fools," said Haasbroek.

A trump card in the South African armory is its RPV surveillance system, which proved its value when it was first used in Natal in March. In the first week, aerial cameras observed movement in several dozen sites where ground recons earlier had indicated something amiss. One target, classified as "suspicious" because of unusual numbers of arrivals and departures, was raided by Fire Force — the first such raid. A homemade-arms factory was found. Eight simple but effective weapons were recovered by the PRU that went in with soldiers.

The 250-kilogram (550-pound) "Seeker" was built by the Kentron company near Pretoria, then in cooperation with an Israeli firm marketing its own model.

Thanks to its gyrostatic system, Seeker's "thermal imaging system" is stable enough in flight to send clear pictures to ground control from an altitude of 18,000 feet. It can be sent out as far as 200 kilometers — day or night — and still stay aloft for two hours over a target. At shorter ranges, it can loiter for up to six hours. Computer-enhanced photographs of suspected houses or positions are printed out and given to raid leaders to help with identification.

"It's so accurate that it can spot a box of matches on the ground from 5 kilometers away," said air force Major Heidi Reynolds, who is responsible for deploying the devices. Three Seekers usually form a mission package, although only one is sent up at any time. The three aircraft have a ground crew of nine.

Seeker looks like a big toy plane. It has two sets of controls: A "pilot" seated beside the runway flies it off and later lands it. When the RPV reaches its designated altitude, the control-room operator takes over.

One of the rebel bases scouted by an RPV for several days before the security forces went in was called "The Town Houses." Shacks around the base of a hill, on whose crest sat the primary target building, looked like little town houses from the air.

"We tried to raid the place a few times," recalled Haasbroek, "but their own OPs always warned them that we were on our way. Then the leaders would just disappear into the hills behind. We couldn't get near them."

"With the Seeker we watched them continuously," he continued. "Gradually we got to know their habits and their security systems. Then we went in at three in the morning and literally pulled them out of their beds. Seeker even showed us a way to get through their defenses undetected. In

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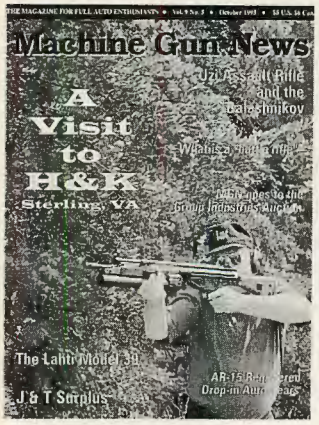

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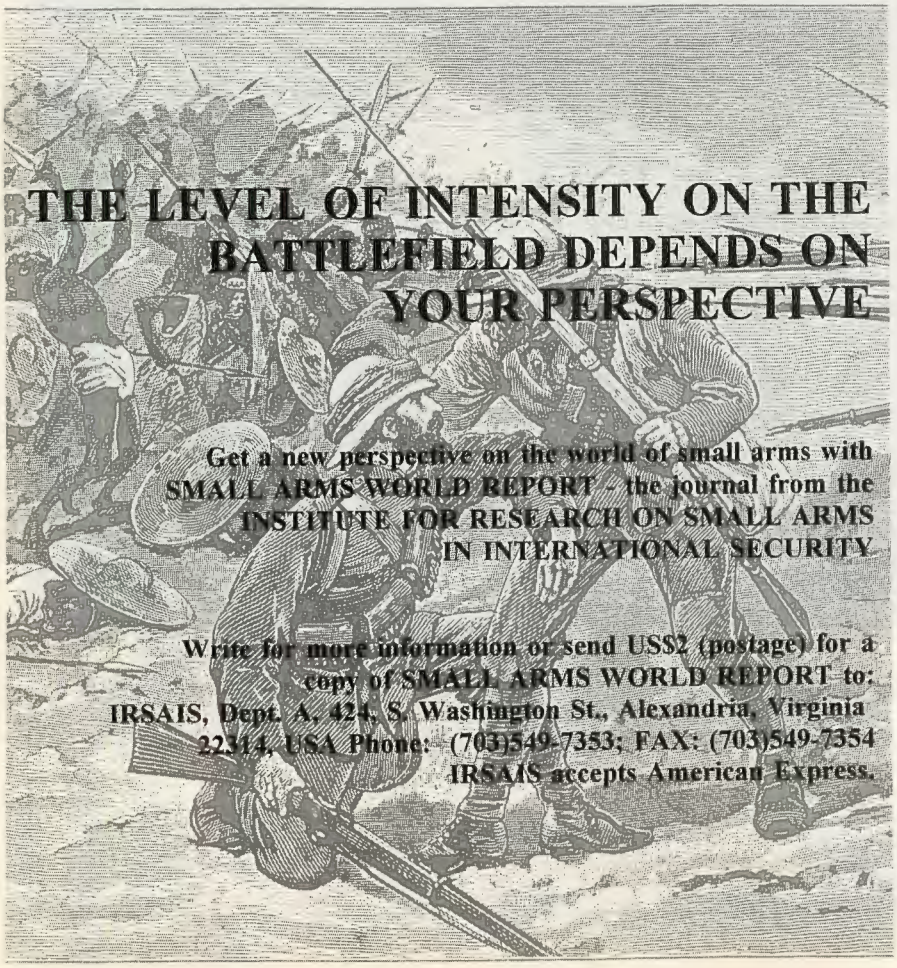

that little operation, we arrested a dozen men whom the police had been looking for a long time. All had committed capital crimes: murder, abduction, extortion, and so on."

Officers seized dozens of weapons in the raid. They also found a warehouse full of stolen TVs and hi-fi sets and a truck, with a commercial load of detergent, that had been hijacked south of Alberton some months before.

"The Town House" complex was occupied by 2,000 people — the largest concentration of criminals and supporters encountered so far in Natal by security forces. That raid was a welcome success. Unfortunately, much more trouble lies on the horizon.

One has only to look closely at what is happening along South Africa's Indian Ocean coastline to understand what it's all about. Most of the "experts" who have studied the situation in Natal believe that a collision between the ANC-led government in Cape Town and the IFP must take place. It might be next month or next year, but most agree it is inevitable. The word "secession," even, is bandied about by many IFP hardliners.

If the situation there is not properly handled, Natal — like Somalia seven years ago — will have all of the ingredients for a full-scale civil war.

SOF *Contributing Editor Al J. Venter has covered numerous conflicts throughout Africa.*

BEATING PLOWSHARES

Continued from page 46

tial law in September 1972 — Misuari resigned his university job and "went underground," mobilizing his followers for war.

Misuari sees the present struggle against the armed forces as part of a sequence of battles that have raged periodically from Spanish colonial times, intensifying after the Americans drove out the Spanish in 1898.

"We started war with the Americans in 1902," he reminds me. "Your forces killed more than 600 people in Sulu in 1906." He points out that General Pershing, later the American commander in World War I, led a force there. " 'Black Jack' Pershing said, 'How can you fight a people who love death more than life?' " says Misuari, proudly. "We fought against the Americans for more than 40 years."

Indeed, the impetus for U.S. development of the .45 ACP cartridge was the need for a hard-hitting, repeater pistol to help fend off *kris*-wielding dervishes who attacked in human waves.

But Misuari has far greater contempt for local Filipino officials than he does for the invaders from Spain,

America and, for three terrible years of WWII, Japan.

"Here the politicians are unrepentant," he says. "They brazenly flout public service. I don't like to be swallowed up by the system."

He charges the armed forces with beefing up their strength throughout the region, including Sulu. "They are pouring in more and more forces." he says. "Is this not preparation for war?"

He concludes the interview with a threat that everyone knows is deadly serious: "If there will be no agreement, it is very likely there will be war. Allah condemns aggressive war; we are allowed only defensive war."

Even so, Jolo Mayor Soud Tan says he does not think the MNLF is that much of a threat. "They can fight for two or three months, no more," he says. "They do not have the resources. They are very poor."

He realizes Moro warriors have been known to fight on empty stomachs, with virtually no new weapons or ammunition.

"People here in Sulu are fond of fighting," Tan says. "They are not afraid to kill. Perhaps it's part of their survival. There were lots of Americans who were kidnapped and killed here in colonial times."

The mayor notes that farmers no longer plant rice, fearing war. "Nobody is farming here any more. People here prefer to bear arms than plows."

But there is reason for believing that MNLF leader Misuari wants peace — with face, if not honor. His first wife, who gave him three boys and three girls, died several years ago. These days, Misuari finds great happiness in his third wife, a former nursing student, who has borne a baby girl.

Some people believe Misuari is mellowing. Fundamentalists in the MILF and the *Abu Sayeff* faction say he is less eager to pick a fight than he was when he first led his men into *jihad* more than two decades ago.

—*D.K.*

SOUTHERN LEBANON

Continued from page 35

were Shi'ites and a few Druse and Sunni Muslims.

From the beginning the Israelis accepted that some Shi'ite Muslims would have to be admitted into the SLA; there simply were not enough Christians. An unusual arrangement, perhaps, in a country where religious beliefs almost irreparably split the tiny nation in a 14-year civil war, this never was a problem — until Hezbollah arrived. This has made the buffer along the Israeli border

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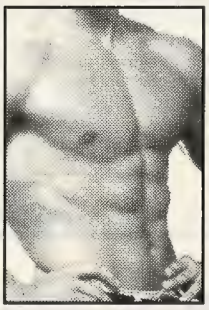

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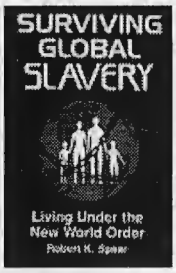

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What has surprised many observers is the speed of the collapse of security in southern Lebanon. No doubt, part of the blame must be shouldered by the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Some of its multinational contingents just are not doing an effective job, and dare not offend Hezbollah.

But there always has been a question whether this state of affairs would remain permanent anyway, considering the vehement Lebanese opposition to the presence of Israelis on their land. In recent years southern Lebanese allied with Israel have become unsure of their future. Several years of *intafada* (Palestinian uprising) ultimately led to an accord between Israel and Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority; this was succeeded by "talks about talks" between Israel and Syria — the real power in Lebanon.

Even the recent election of Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's prime minister has not stilled such fears. Though a hard-liner, Netanyahu cannot ignore the practicalities and pitfalls facing Israeli security in the north of the country. Like others before him he will have to give a little to get a little; that applies especially to southern Lebanon since it has become so vulnerable.

Many Israel-allied southern Lebanese believed, and said openly, that they might be sacrificed in the name of peace in much the same way that some Israeli settlements in the Occupied West Bank had been marginalized during the Rabin and Peres administrations. Then came Beirut's integration of the Lebanese army (at Syria's insistence); today, Muslims and Christians — former enemies — serve in the same units.

SLA soldiers fear that if the Israelis abandoned the security zone, old enemies just to the north would use the opportunity to settle old scores. Already, the Beirut government has charged the SLA commander, General Antoine Lahad, with crimes against humanity. He has refused to go to Beirut, where he will be tried *in absentia*. Meanwhile, he has sent his family to live in France.

There consequently has been a steady trickle of Christian Lebanese from the south. As a result, the SLA now is about 70% Shi'ite. It is not unreasonable to surmise that some of these soldiers secretly have links to Hezbollah. That is evident in the increase in infiltrations through SLA territory.

IDF soldiers now are doing jobs formerly done by the SLA. As a result, more Israelis are becoming casualties in security-zone confrontations. In the western half, for instance, SLA gun-

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ners no longer are permitted to fire artillery, following the accidental shelling of a village instead of suspected Hezbollah infiltrators. Further, the SLA's human-intelligence ("humint") work involving networks of agents and informers has come to a stop. The Israeli secret police, *Shin Beth*, formerly supervised SLA humint. That gave way recently to control by IDF military intelligence. This suggests a split within the Israeli high command over the best way to deal with southern Lebanon.

All of these factors put Hezbollah in a much stronger position beyond Israel's border than ever before. Jerusalem has three options, each with risk.

- Israel could enlarge its buffer by forcibly expanding the security zone in southern Lebanon. But this would mean another costly military campaign; also, assuming responsibility for hundreds of thousands of hostile Shi'ites. And it would harm Israel's relations with Egypt, Jordan and Syria.
- It could maintain the present status quo. However, the monthly casualty figures already are too high, and northern residents are screaming about guerrilla attacks. And if the SLA were to deteriorate further, the situation could get much more serious.
- The last alternative is the trickiest of all: withdraw from Lebanon. Israel then would have a dedicated and quasi-independent Hezbollah just across the fence, within small arms' range. Even a beefed-up UNIFIL would not be able contain such a border conflict if Hezbollah had unrestricted movement; neither would Lebanon's 58,000-man army. Only Syria, with its 35,000 "peacekeeping" troops in Lebanon and, equally significant, control over Hezbollah's logistics, could check the guerrillas' excesses.

For many years Israelis have insisted that a prelude to any kind of peace in Lebanon must be the departure of the Syrians. That is no longer so.

— Al J. Venter

DIE-HARD SUBGUN

Continued from page 43

years, the bolt when opened, was still shiny from the heavy amount of oil sprayed on it years before.

A number of things stand out during the service life of this MP5. H&K recommends changing the extractor spring every 7,500 rounds, but in this instance the extractor spring didn't give difficulty until ammunition with a harder brass alloy and a wider cartridge rim was employed.

Secondly, even though the roller holder broke a number of times, the KSC staff used the same pin to hold the new roller holder until finally it also became too worn.

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A number of springs were replaced over the gun's service life, but Barousse's assessment that heat was a problem for these guns in his operational area was probably correct. Heat will destroy spring tension, and it is surprising more springs were not replaced because of the conditions.

Bill Barousse futher explained that although he kept as accurate records as events warranted, it is still possible the final figure could be off by 15,000 to 20,000 rounds. In other words, this MP5 may have fired that much less during its life at KSC, or it could have fired that much more.

H&K's Gary Gregory believes the gun could have been brought back into specifications by simply installing a new barrel. That single repair would correct the headspace and accuracy problems.

When asked why they were taking the gun out of service, Bill Barousse replied they requested a price quote to have the gun completely refurbished by HK. The quote given in reply was within $100 of the price of a new gun, so the decision was made to order new guns as replacements instead.

In any event, the administrators and armorers at the Kennedy Space Center firmly believe in the MP5: not because of its superior operational and handling characteristics, but because of the return on the budgeted dollar.

The HK MP5 is a very cost-effective police weapon. It costs little to maintain and operate, and as MP5 serial number 316019 demonstrated, they can consume an amazing amount of ammunition during their lifetimes with relatively little expense or repair.

This feature is adapted from Frank W. James' book, Project 64: The MP5 Submachine Gun Story, *available for $44.95 plus $3 p&h from Gallant/Charger Publishers, Dept. SOF, 34249 Camino Capistrano, Capistrano Beach, CA 92624; phone: 714-493-2101.*

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Continued from page 18

a flashlight and a handgun, but how do you work a flashlight with a rifle? First, the appropriate flashlight should be activated by a pressure switch, not one that leaves the light "on" when you want it "off." It is for this same reason that you don't want to utilize a lanyard. If you can't get it turned off you certainly don't want it attached to you advertising, "Here he is, here he is."

Secondly, the technique utilized is little more than an extension of the Harries handgun method. With the rifle in position and on target, the support hand and wrist are positioned under the forearm of the rifle. The back of the weak hand presses against the rifle's forearm and the thumb is used to activate the pressure switch.

More importantly, move or change positions once you use the light. Remaining in place after identifying your location is unhealthy. And you certainly don't do what I did: Move with the light still on — that tells your opponent which direction you're headed.

Perhaps the best solution is to mount a Surefire light and pressure switch on the weapon. The light is activated with a pressure pad located on the forearm. This is an accessory that could pay for itself in a deadly-force encounter where you must identify the threat before employing lethal force.

Smith and his staff also stress the importance of slings: A long gun without a sling is like a pistol without a holster. There is no way to carry the firearm discretely when the threat is no longer present.

My observations along the firing line noted the simpler the sling the better. I used a military M14 web sling and found it did everything with a minimum of fuss. It was also fast when deploying the carbine from the opposite-side carry position where the rifle is slung on

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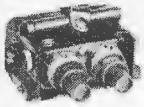

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the opposite shoulder with the muzzle down.

Throughout the Urban Rifle Course a number of tactical rules were repeated over and over: rule number one — Always Win; rule number two — Always Cheat.

The M&M rule is absolutely sound and so basic it is empirical: *Maximize* the distance to the threat, and *Minimize* yourself as a target. But in working man-made funnels like corners, hallways and doorways, the shooter should be able to transition to his weak-side shoulder to minimize himself as a target when working the off-side barricade, i.e. a right-handed shooter shooting the left side of a barricade.

However, at Thunder Ranch, everything was performed from the strong-side shoulder. Clint makes the point that in 25 years of teaching the Urban Rifle course he has seen only two individuals who could transition smoothly from one shoulder and eye to the other. Therefore, he emphasizes the strong-side shoulder on all rifle shooting indoors.

But this violates the M&M rule when you work the off-side corner or barricade. You expose most of your body before the gun becomes between you and the threat. Not a good thing. Shooting from the weak shoulder with the weak hand is a difficult task, but in clearing any structure it is, in my view, an essential skill to master.

Smith just feels it is too difficult for most shooters. He stresses if the threat is really close, the situation demands better, more accurate shooting. Distance is time and time is security. If you're close, make that shot (or shots) count.

The summation of a motto heard repeatedly at Thunder Ranch is a pistol is used only to fight your way back to your rifle, which you shouldn't have laid down in the first place.

PARTING SHOT

Continued from page 82

the fundamentalist splinter group that bombed New York's World Trade Center. It is like arguing that all Jews are as strident as the assassinated Zionist, Rabbi Kahane.

The Freemen political philosophy is grounded in a racist religious doctrine, Christian Identity. And there are Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi elements which have exploited the militia movement. But race is not the tie that binds militia groups. It is the right to bear arms.

By their unorganized and loosely defined nature, an accurate accounting of militia groups, membership and missions statements is impossible. Other than a unifying advocacy of the Second Amendment, the only accurate observation one can make is of their social and cultural — and yes, even racial diversity.

Many militia members are as misinformed about the nature of militias as are the mainstream media and public at large. *SOF* angered some readers when it reported that private military or paramilitary units are illegal in some states. That is *not* opinion. It is fact. But these well-meaning diehards miss a more important point: One does not have to have a membership card, a set of camouflage fatigues and crawl through the brush once a month to be in a militia. One merely has to be an able-bodied adult citizen *with* a firearm.

As discomfiting as it should be for a reasonable person to ponder, the Founding Fathers did not include the Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights because they wanted to guarantee their right to shoot a turkey for Thanksgiving dinner. They did so because they had just overthrown a government by force of arms!

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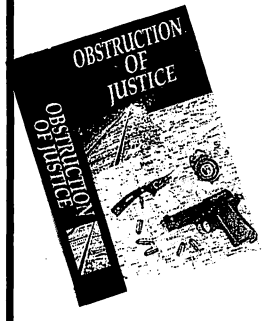

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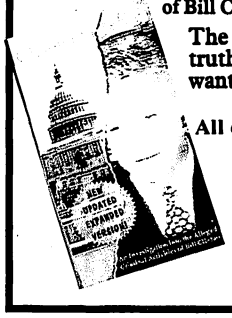

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ATF RECORDS

Continued from page 49

other materials are favorable to the defendant. ..." states the DOJ cover letter. "Rather, we are providing them in order to avoid any suggestion that the Department has not provided all material which may be relevant ..."

Included in the packet is a copy of an ATF Internal Affairs memo written by Special Agent Joseph E. Dugan. (Dugan is the agent to whom the author turned over hundreds of sensitive internal ATF documents retrieved by *SOF* from a trash dumpster outside the ATF's Special Operations Division facility that houses the bureau's clandestine electronics shop; see "*SOF* Exposes ATF's Warbirds," October '95.) Dugan's memo reports his official inquiry into "whether employees at the NFA Branch were committing perjury in their testimony concerning the accuracy of the NFRTR."

Dugan's memo did not address Busey's statement that NFA records were only "between 49 and 50 %" accurate. It does mention "... other statements by Busey which, while not indicative of misconduct, could require clarification."

Human Error

In taking a sworn affidavit from Busey, Dugan reported that Busey "...made a misstatement of the facts. What he meant to convey was the fact that the database contains certain inaccuracies which can be attributed to human error. ... It would appear that Busey was not attempting to convey the notion that members of his staff commit perjury ... It is therefore recommended that this investigation be closed. ..."

But the can of worms won't be easily closed. It came up in January in an NFA case in U.S District Court in Norfolk, Virginia. Defendant John Daniel LeaSure was a licensed machine-gun and suppressor manufacturer who decided to sell three guns to improve his cash flow. Approval of the transfers typically takes about three months and, once approved, the applicant has 24 hours to deliver the weapon to the new owner.

By the time LeaSure's transfer forms were approved, his cash flow had improved, so he decided not to sell the machine guns. During the allotted 24-hour period, LeaSure voided the approved transfer forms and telefaxed them to the NFA Branch, a routine method of transmitting NFA paperwork.

LeaSure was subsequently indicted on six counts of NFA record-keeping violations. He was convicted of four counts, one each for the voided transfer forms and another for not registering a sound suppressor that LeaSure said was defective and could not be sold or used.

Although LeaSure's attorney, David N. Montague, requested the government to produce all exculpatory material, neither ATF nor the U.S. Attorney's office provided him with a transcript of Busey's remarks, which came to Montague's attention after LeaSure's conviction. Montague filed a motion for a hearing on a new trial, which was set for 21 May — the same date LeaSure was to be sentenced.

At that hearing, Schiable repeated earlier testimony that the NFA Branch had no record of LeaSure's voided transfer forms for the three machine guns. Montague asked Schiable for the branch's telefax number, which Schiable provided. Montague then produced LeaSure's phone bill, with the same telefax number recorded on the date that LeaSure said he voided the seven transfer forms. The record indicted a 21-minute call; seven pages at three minutes each.

On cross examination, Schiable admitted that he had to order punitive transfers for two records clerks, who were throwing telefaxed NFA records in the trash each day to reduce their workload.

After hearing this and reading a certified copy of Busey's statements about the inaccuracy of the NFA registry, U.S. District Court Judge John A. MacKenzie dismissed the three gun convictions against LeaSure. The silencer conviction is on appeal.

Montague subsequently filed a complaint with the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility, claiming that the ATF and prosecutor did not meet their legal obligations under the Brady doctrine, and that when Assistant U.S. Attorney Arenda Wright Allen did send the Busey transcript, she failed to include the transcript's final seven pages, which included Busey's most damaging admissions.

"This goes to the core of ethics of what is supposed to be a professional law-enforcement agency," said Sanders. "If the agency which enforces the law would violate the law by lying, then it has no credibility in the judicial system and deserves the public's scorn."

BIG SKY SURRENDER

Continued from page 57

the evidence. It was to be loaded into a large Ryder rental truck, which prompted "some not-so-very-funny jokes," Lyons said. They got to the ranch at 0715 — 15 minutes late.

The whole day was spent cataloguing and loading Freemen evidence.

"We did not quibble with them," Lyons said. "Whatever they thought was evidence was evidence ... Because they were working, and ... they couldn't sit there and think about 'What the hell am I doing? Why am I going to jail?' There did seem to be some sense of relief."

Attorney Salley went to see if the FBI would restore electric power to speed up the packing process. Assistant U.S. Attorney Seykora refused.

The Freemen "couldn't turn on the

generators," Lyons explained, "because we were never told that the power was not going to be turned on. We didn't want to overamp the system, if the generators were running and the power suddenly came on. We did not want to start any fire."

Lyons had talked by phone with Dr. Neill Payne, his brother-in-law, back in North Carolina. He told Payne that if the standoff was about to end, he would signal so by raising the Confederate flag hanging in the Freemen classroom. By 1100 hours Thursday, Lyons decided it would be safe to signal success.

Besides, Lyons said, "I knew it would drive the press nuts. I knew they'd be micro-analyzing what was going on. ... Generally, the mainstream press always get it wrong. As a matter of fact, they broke into CNN programming to say, 'They're putting a Confederate flag up! What does it mean?' Well, it meant that I was telling Neill Payne that they're coming out."

The arrest process was supposed to begin by 1500 hours, but it was 1700 before the 16 remaining hold-outs loaded into a caravan of about seven vehicles. They stopped about 50 yards from the front gate and gathered for prayer. Then Edwin Clark and the CAUSE team filed down to the gate.

The End Of A Siege — And An Era

Walking up to the closest FBI agent, Clark grasped the agent's hand, shook it and said, "It's been one hell of a siege." Lyons said one of the FBI negotiators spoke up: "Edwin, you deserve the Nobel Peace Prize."

Edwin Clark escorted the Freemen up in pairs. By agreement, no one was handcuffed, but each person thoroughly searched. As each person was arrested, he or she "served" common law warrants on the agents for being "out of your jurisdiction."

"The agents," Lyons said, "were very polite, very soft-spoken." Most Freemen shook hands with their captors. Some did not. "It went very orderly," he said.

"It was very difficult for Edwin when he escorted his son [Casey] up to go into FBI custody," Lyons said. "That's when the tears started. Everybody — the FBI, Edwin, me — there wasn't a dry eye there."

It was particularly hard for Ralph and Emmett Clark. Both in their late 60s, and both sick with cancer, they had been born and raised on the ranch, without phones or electricity. Ralph had delivered mail on horseback. They knew they were never coming back.

"The Clark story is the story of the American Dream turned into a nightmare," Lyons said. When the two elder Clarks were arrested, "it was like watching the Old West pass before my eyes."

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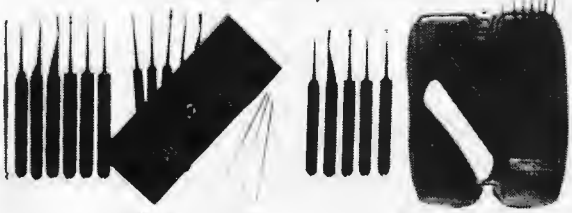
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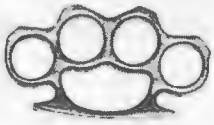

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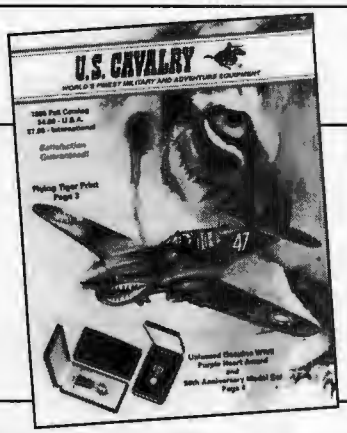

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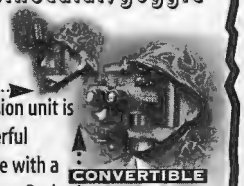

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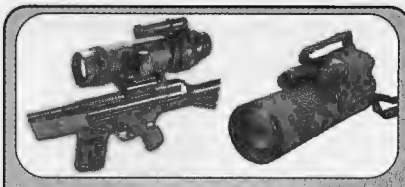

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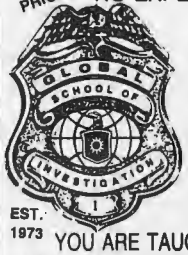

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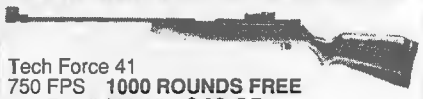

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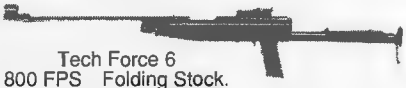

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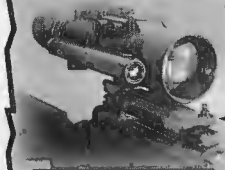

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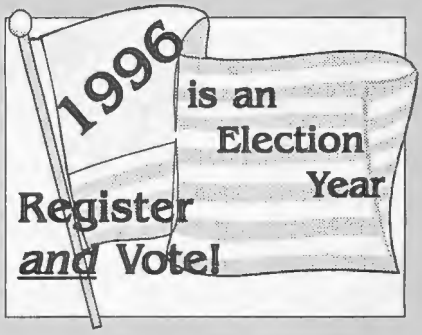

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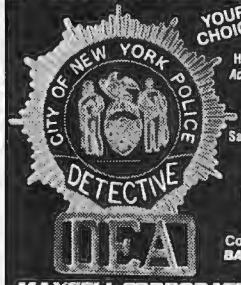

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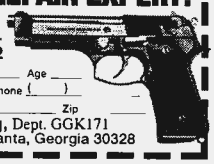

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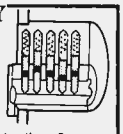

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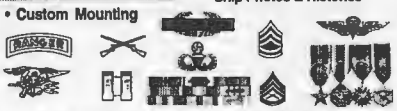

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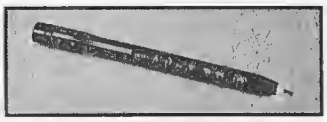

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PARTING SHOT

Militias: Court Of Last Resort

by James L. Pate

If one wanted to declare a National Militia Month, to promote a better understanding of what the militia movement is all about, August would be a good choice. Fifty years ago, on 1-2 August 1946, in Athens, Tennessee, a hastily organized militia took up arms — and a few sticks of dynamite — to enforce the letter of the law on corrupt officials in McMinn County who had engaged in acts of bribery and elections-rigging ("The Militia Of McMinn County," *SOF*, Dec. '95).

Returned WWII military vets convened what could only be called an unorganized militia. They obtained keys to two local armories and issued three M-1s, 24 U.S. Enfields and five .45-caliber semiautomatic pistols to men who, a few months earlier, had braved the bullets and bombs of the Axis Powers. A 30-minute firefight ensued inflicting numerous injuries, but freed the town from the stranglehold of the Cantrell-Mansfield machine.

As the Battle of Athens proves, the militia movement is nothing new, but a recurring cycle in our history. It is an option given by our Founding Fathers; a *final* option against corrupt and arbitrary rule. And, more than any other publication, *Soldier Of Fortune* has led the way in reporting on the militia movement — not always to everyone's satisfaction, mind you — by providing perspective and historical background.

Timing is everything in journalism. That proved to be the case for my first reporting trip on the militia. It was 1986. Few journalists then knew or cared about the issue. But on the 150th anniversary of the Alamo, Texas was a fortuitous focal point. Among readers of a paramilitary journal such as *SOF*, the militia movement found a keenly interested audience (see "Citizen Soldiers," *SOF*, May '87).

It was in Texas, in 1836, that a small band of irregulars — an "unorganized militia," in the terminology of our nation's Revolutionary War-era leaders of 60 years earlier — stubbornly chose to make a hopeless stand in the Alamo, rather than submit to the authority of a vastly superior Mexican army.

"Remember the Alamo" became a battle cry that spurred a more formally trained army of "select militia," General Sam Houston's 1st Texas Regiment of Volunteers, to victory over the Mexican government.

Seven years after my first trip to write about the emerging militia movement, I would go back to Texas, where "Remember the Alamo" had given way to "Remember Waco." The Branch Davidian debacle — the biggest disaster in federal law-enforcement history — became the catalyst that transformed the most recent cycle of militia resurgence from a minor grass roots phenomenon into a significant social movement.

The Waco atrocity symbolizes an arrogant abuse of force and government recklessness. It was a bloody demonstration that *some* federal agents, hidden behind badges, felt they were above the law and unaccountable. And it galvanized opinions among a widely disparate group of Americans that an armed citizenry is the final bulwark against tyranny.

"One merely has to be an able-bodied adult citizen *with* a firearm [to be a militiaman]."

Within a decade, our nation was embroiled in a great debate over militias; the desirability of an armed citizenry vs. public safety; the precise intent of the constitutional framers in the Second Amendment vs. just how far Congress should tilt in the tricky balance between individual liberty and state security.

Jefferson, Madison and other constitutional framers who championed and ultimately drafted our Bill of Rights were steeped in the essentially libertarian political philosophies of Aristotle and Cicero, which accept an armed populace as a necessary limitation on the totalitarian tendencies of governments. The counterpoint in this debate was laid down in the writings of Plato and Caesar, authoritarians who, in essence, favored an unarmed and obedient citizenry, subjects of the presumed benevolence of their rulers.

It was a militia conflict that sparked our American Revolution; shots "heard 'round the world" when British troops tried to confiscate guns from an "unorganized militia" unit drilling on the Common in Lexington, Massachusetts on 19 April 1775.

Thomas Jefferson, perhaps the greatest mind among our Founding Fathers, was a staunch advocate of an armed citizenry: "What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not reminded from time to time that its people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms!"

Conversely, George Washington, an unabashed federalist who advocated an all-powerful central government, was the biggest militia critic of his day.

Like the Battle of Lexington, it remains uncertain who fired the first shots at Waco, but the results are indelibly written in blood. When Waco ended in a holocaust of uncertain origin on the 218th anniversary of Lexington, 19 April attained an almost mythical status within the latter-day militia movement. Its significance did not become clear until horribly crystallized in the public's consciousness by the blinding flash of an exploding truck bomb in Oklahoma City on 19 April 1995.

The militia movement's most recently publicized permutation, the Freemen standoff in Montana, has fueled the fires of public debate. While the Freemen are not a militia movement in the strictest sense of the definition, they are a product of the widespread fear of the government's abuses of force in the Weaver and Waco tragedies, and the perception that the government is unaccountable and, therefore, losing ligitimacy in its exercise of power.

At least as of this writing, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's handling of the Freemen standoff indicates some hard-learned lessons from the Randy Weaver and Waco debacles. While the FBI may have learned some lessons from those two tragedies, the press has not.

The mainstream press, based on claims by self-appointed "watchdog" groups that are unsupported by specific data, continue to portray the militia movement as mainly a manifestation of white supremacists.

To say that militia members are mostly white supremacists bent upon terrorism is tantamount to arguing that all Muslims are as hell-bent as

Continued on page 69

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